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Cebu Daily News editor in chief Ivan Suansing dies at 43

■ SPORTS / A25

Tamaraws take Game 1 of UAAP Finals

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4 terror suspects caught with bomb

■ BUSINESS / B1

4 big developers scramble for International School property

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Palace slams Senate hearings; businessmen back EO 464

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG STOOD FIRM YESTERDAY on its decision to ban government officials from testifying in Congress, saying its hearings were nothing more than impeachment proceedings in disguise called not in aid of

PALACE/ A21

Luisita workers bitterly recall sugarcoated promises

By Blanche S. Rivera and PDI Central Luzon Desk

FEDERICO B. LAZA HEARD BEAUTIFUL promises on May 9, 1989. He would become a stockholder and all his 10 children could finish school.

And so like more than 5,000 other farmers,

LUISITA/ A22

'Not a one-woman rule'

Bernas says GMA gag order on gov't officials is unconstitutional

By Armand Nocum, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

FATHER JOAQUIN BERNAS, dean emeritus of the Ateneo Law School and a noted constitutional expert, said President Macapagal-Arroyo could not invoke executive privilege to cover up allegations that she stole last year's elections.

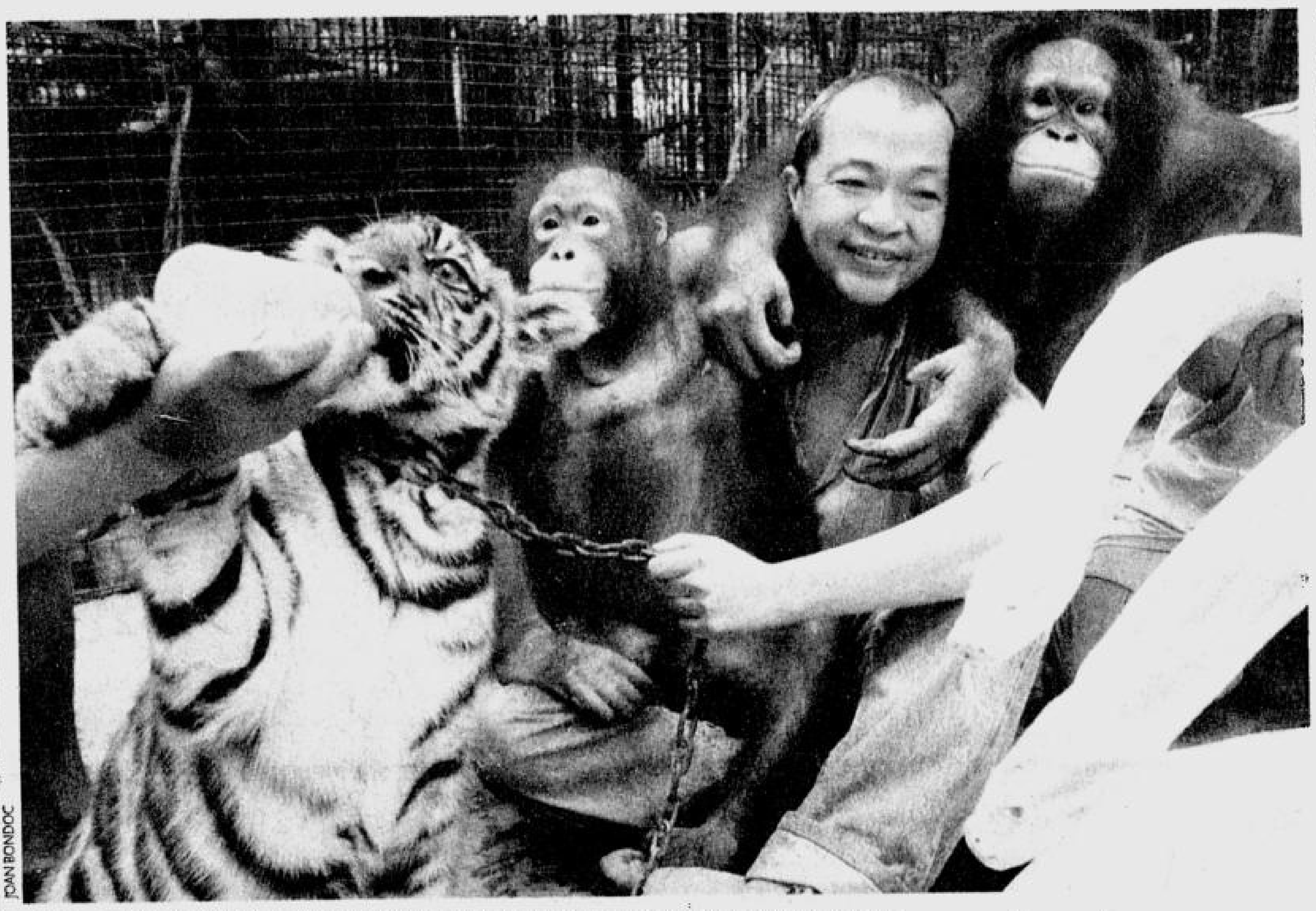
Bernas said Executive Order No. 464 prevented the legislative branch from exercising its role as fiscalizer and disturbed the balance of power among the branches of government.

"It's a gag rule. She's obstructing the work of the legislature. She is blocking the checks and balances among coequal branches of government," he said. "We are still a rule of democracy, not a rule of one woman."

Administration and opposition senators also said yesterday they would challenge Ms Arroyo's gag order before the Supreme Court.

The Constitution says only department heads cannot attend congressional hearings without the President's permission, said Bernas. He said this did not apply to Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who testified Wednesday before a Senate committee on alleged electoral fraud involving the First Couple.

NOT A ONE-WOMAN/ A21


JOAN BONDOC

THE BEAUTY OF THE BEASTS is that they have a patron saint in St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is on Oct. 4, now celebrated worldwide as Animal Day when special events are held to heighten awareness of how humans relate to God's other creatures. At the Malabon Zoo, (from left) Batista, Assunta, Manny (Tangco, the owner), Pacquiao, Cheesecake and Eggpie look forward to blessings on Sunday.

Whodunit? Three gov't lawyers who drafted EO named

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO, A staunch Arroyo ally, has urged the President to fire all those responsible for drafting the gag order on public officials and employees.

"The lawyers who drafted (EO 464) are

WHODUNIT?/ A21

Cabinet men's absence derails Northrail probe

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF THE whole opened its long-delayed investigation into the Northrail project, but Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez were absent.

Executive Order No. 464, issued on Wednesday, bans government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That's their own lookout if they don't want to appear here," said Senate President Franklin Drilon, chair of the committee looking into the $503-million project to rehabilitate the railway system from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan.

"We support the plan of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel to bring the matter to the Supreme Court," Drilon said, referring to the presidential order.

Transportation Undersecretary Guiling Mamondong, Monetary Board member Juanita Amatong, Narciso Abaya of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Jose Ma. Sarasola II of the Philippine National Railways were also no-shows.

Jose Cortes Jr., president of North Luzon Railway Corp. (Northrail), earlier wrote Drilon requesting that the hearing be deferred until after he had been furnished a copy of the UP Law Center's study of the contract. He begged off from the hearing.

Surprisingly, Efren Gonzales, assistant government corporate counsel, showed up, saying that he was not covered by EO 464.

Gonzales ended up being grilled by the senators, and more than two hours

CABINET/ A20

Even GMA allies in House oppose Palace order

JESS YUSON

EO 464 WORKS. An entire row of seats reserved for at least eight government officials at the Senate hearing on the $503-M Northrail project on Thursday is empty.

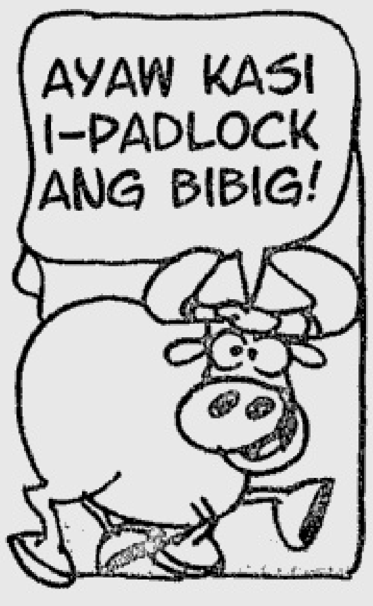
By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's staunch allies in the House are opposed to her order barring members of the executive branch from testifying at congressional inquiries without her consent.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other House leaders said there was "no valid reason" for the issuance of Executive Order No. 464. They said that while they respected Ms Arroyo's "inherent right" under the Constitution to claim "executive privilege," the chamber would continue to invite officials from the executive branch "in aid of legislation and by virtue of the people's right to public information."

They also said the House had never "abused" or showed "disrespect" to anyone invited as a witness or resource person at its hearings which, they pointed out, had never been used for

GMA ALLIES/ A21


AYAW KASI I-PADLOCK ANG BIBIG!

EO 464 locks out gov't lawyer from own office

By DJ Yap

MIDWAY THROUGH THE SENATE hearing on the Northrail project yesterday, assistant government corporate counsel Efren Gonzales suddenly became engrossed in reading his text messages.

The messages were from his wife and secretary, he told the senators. And the messages were the same: His office was being padlocked as he sat there answering their questions.

EO 464/ A20

PMA cancels tomorrow's honor parade for Gudani

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan
in Manila

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—THE Philippine Military Academy yesterday cancelled the honor parade scheduled tomorrow for Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, its sacked assistant superintendent.

Gudani is due to retire on Oct, 4 but had begged off from the parade, according to Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent.

"I asked him, 'Will we proceed with your ceremonies this weekend?' He said, 'I don't think I can still [afford to] go up [to Baguio],'" Balaoing told the INQUIRER quoting Gudani.

The parade was to be part of the PMA's testimonial for Gudani on the occasion of his retirement.

Along with Col. Alexander Balutan, PMA assistant commandant of cadets, Gudani defied President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 forbidding them from testifying at the Senate wiretapping inquiry on Wednesday.

Gudani had testified he was privy to information that the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, twice flew to Mindanao days before Election Day last year to deliver boxes containing a total of about P500 million.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga promptly relieved Gudani and Balutan and ordered their court-martial.

"With what happened [at the Senate] ... I know the rule," Balaoing quoted Gudani as saying yesterday.

Balaoing added: "What is the rule? If [a military official has] a pending case,

PMA/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/30/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

4 terror suspects caught with bombs

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PIGCAWAYAN, NORTH Cotabato – Government forces collared four suspected members of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group and seized an improvised explosive from them at a mobile checkpoint here, military and police officials said Thursday.

Senior Insp. Raulito Suyom, Pigcawayan police chief, identified the suspects as Kasan Datukon, 29; Abdulsalam Salik, 25; Sohudin Danda, 29, and Omar Bantas, 30. Datukon was reportedly a construction worker from Cotabato City while the others whose occupations were not listed were from Barangay Matilak here.

Suyom said investigation showed the suspects boarded a passenger jeep bound for Cotabato City on Wednesday.

He said Datukon, who was carrying the black backpack containing the explosive – a 60-mm mortar shell fitted with a cell phone as a trigger – sat in the front seat with the bag between his legs.

Upon reaching the village after Matilak, Datukon offered his seat to an old man and moved to the roof of the vehicle.

It is customary in the rural areas to offer one's seat to the elderly and women and to ride on the roofs of public utility vehicles.

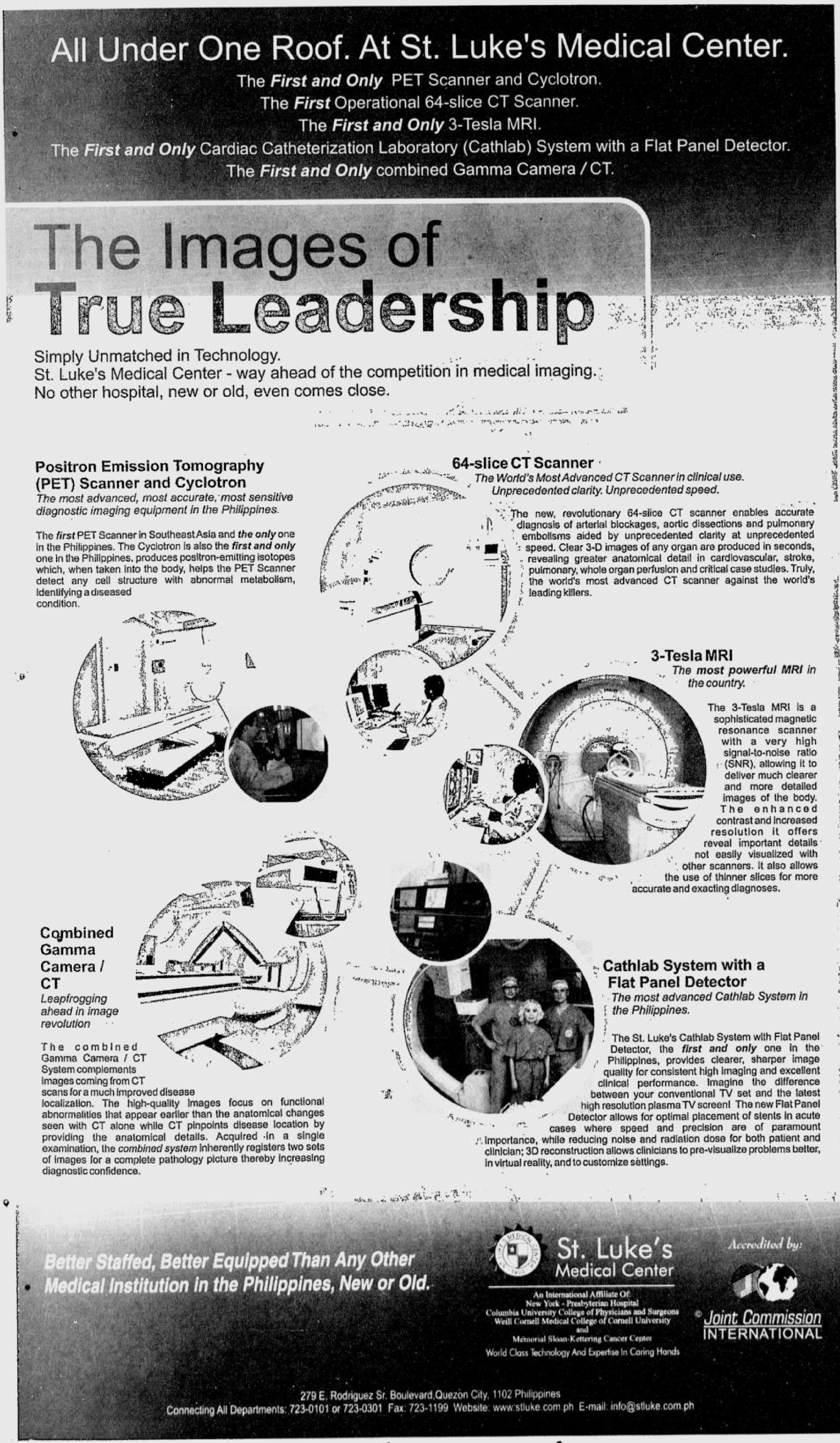
At Barangay Manuangan, soldiers and policemen manning a checkpoint found the explosive in the bag.

A Nokia 5110 mobile phone had been hooked up to the explosive while Datukon was carrying another phone, a Nokia 3310, with which he was going to call up the first phone to trigger the bomb, according to Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Dema-ala said the suspects may have been among the latest recruits trained by the JI-linked Abu Sayyaf Group in Central Mindanao.

He said it appeared the suspects intended to inflict major damage as the bomb was a powerful one.

Suyom said three of the suspects were in police custody while Datukon was brought to 6th ID headquarters in Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.



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Top police execs differ on anti-crime 'superbody'

By Luige A. del Puerto

TOP POLICE OFFICIALS CANNOT QUITE agree on how the new anti-crime "superbody" created by Malacañang will affect the special anti-crime units of the Philippine National Police.

Director Marcelo Ele Jr., who heads the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (Aidsoft), said the new body was primarily a "management tool" meant to harmonize the operations of various anti-crime units.

"It is a good approach to fighting criminal syndicates, which are themselves involved in different kinds of crimes," he said.

But another police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said existing special anti-crime units could be subsumed under the new body, which could take away much of their men and funds.

"Our only hope is that the existing units will not lose their resources, like money, to the new body," the official said.

Under Executive Order No. 463, the President has ordered the creation of a National Anti-Crime Task Force, or Nactaf, under the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, to be headed by the Secretary of the Interior.

"Numerous task forces have been created to deal with specific crimes and there is a need to streamline these task forces to rationalize resources and harmonize strategies that will intensify the fight against criminality," the EO said in justifying the creation of the super anti-crime body.

It is thought that the Nactaf would take charge of the operations of all the task forces created to go after criminals, like the Aidsoft and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), the anti-kidnapping task force.

The Nactaf is supposed to make an assessment of all the anti-crime bodies created by executive orders and recommend their retention or abolition.

But since the Palace has yet to call a meeting to discuss the mechanics and structure of the super body, PNP officials can only guess at how it will work out.

Cebu Daily News editor dies; 43

**By Jhunnex Napallacan
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY – RIGHT UP TO THE END, CEBU Daily News (CDN) editor-in-chief Ivan P. Suansing was concerned with the paper he nourished and served for almost eight years. Cut down by a stroke but not completely immobilized, he would call or text the newsroom from his hospital bed, asking for answers if he sensed from reading his paper that something was amiss.

Most of all, he was itching for work and looked forward to the operation that would mend a coronary artery damaged by the stroke. But it was not to be.

At 8 a.m. yesterday, barely six hours after a delicate, 10-hour heart surgery at Perpetual Succor Hospital, Suansing succumbed to postoperative complications, said Eileen Mangubat, CDN publisher and acting editor-in-chief.

"He was a sensitive, brilliant editor-in chief who developed the paper like an attentive father," Mangubat said.

Suansing, 43, a former INQUIRER correspondent and a native of Iloilo City, is survived by his wife Chandra, 33, and children Samantha, 10, and Isaiah, 5.

A two-day wake is planned at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Nivel Hills before Suansing's remains are flown to Iloilo City on Saturday. Interment will be announced later.

Willy Rodolfo, CDN copy editor, told the INQUIRER that Suansing reported for work Aug. 30 with a throbbing headache which he brushed aside, thinking it was due to just tired eyes. The next day, while he was about to report for work, Suansing felt ill and decided to go to Cebu Doctors Hospital where doctors found he had just suffered a stroke.

He was moved a week later to Perpetual Succor Hospital's heart center when it was discovered that he had developed a heart problem. The doctors there decided to operate to repair Suansing's damaged aorta.

Suansing is the third of four children of Horacio Suansing Sr., 81, and Annabellia Palma-Suansing, 72.

He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences, cum laude, from the West Visayas State University in Iloilo City in 1983. He also studied law at UP-Diliman and University of San Augustin in Iloilo City.

RP to lose air defense as last of F-5 fighter jets go out of service

THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE will decommission the last of its 40-year-old F-5 fighter jets, leaving the country without any aerial defense aircraft, an air force spokesperson said yesterday.

Ceremonies for the decommissioning of the US-made "Freedom Fighter" jets will be held in Basa air base on Saturday, marking the last use of these aircraft.

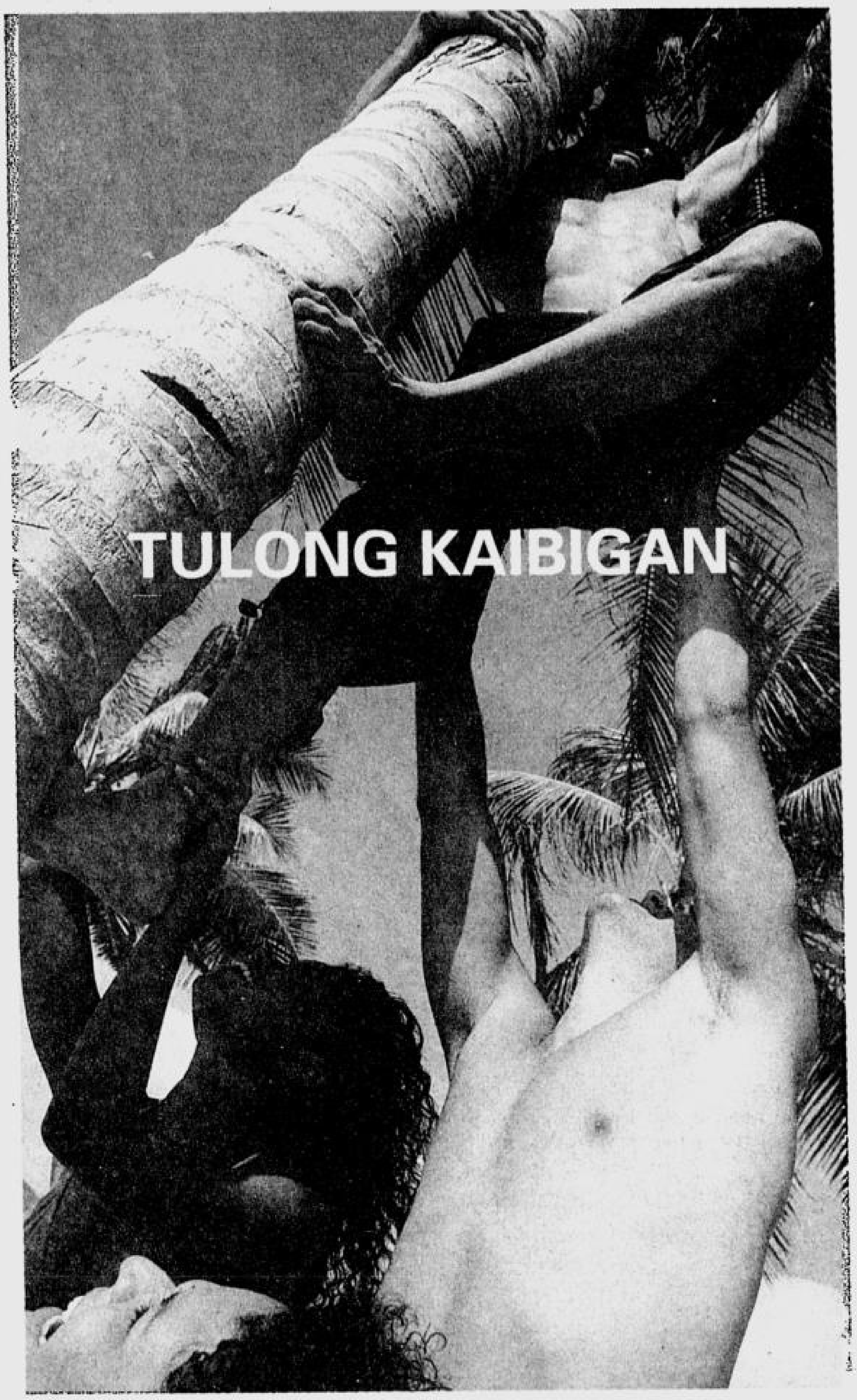
Only about five F-5s are still operational, Major Augusto de la Peña said.

Because of lack of funds, "for the next six years, acquisition of new fighters are not on the drawing board," said De la Peña.

In the meantime, the air force will use about five Italian-made S211 trainer jets to serve as makeshift air defense aircraft even though they are not designed or equipped to be fighters, De la Pena added.

"These are the trade-offs we have to accept because of our defense priorities," he said

The Philippines acquired about 37 F-5 jets from its main ally, the United States, in 1965. But many of the jets were later grounded, and the remaining aircraft are too expensive to maintain and repair, the major said. *AFP*



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High fuel prices lead to hike in motorbike smuggling

By Leila B. Salaverria

A BUREAU OF CUSTOMS official yesterday said attempts to smuggle motorbikes into the country appeared to be on the rise because the high cost of fuel made the two-wheel vehicles more appealing to consumers.

BOC Deputy Commissioner Gallant Soriano said he had noticed an increase in the number of motorbike smuggling attempts in the last few months and attributed this to the need for cheaper alternative means of transport.

In a statement, Soriano said that in July alone, the bureau seized two shipments of motorbikes from South Korea that had been misdeclared as personal effects. Both shipments were found at the Port of Manila.

The first shipment, consisting of eight bikes, was stopped on July 14. Its consignee was identified as Manila Bay Jei-Ling Freight Forwarders Co. Inc.

Five days later, another 10 motorbikes consigned to a C.U. Guerra were intercepted.

The two shipments were among the P13-million worth of items seized by customs officials in July and August, according to Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service director Eric Albano.

Albano said that aside from the motorbikes, the BOC confiscated 10 container vans of shrimp fry from China that had been misdeclared as frozen fish, and a container van of textiles from Saipan whose weight had been underdeclared.

The shrimp fry, discovered on Aug. 30, were not covered by the proper permits from the Department of Agriculture. It was consigned to Universal Union Trading Corp.

Corrections

ASISTIO

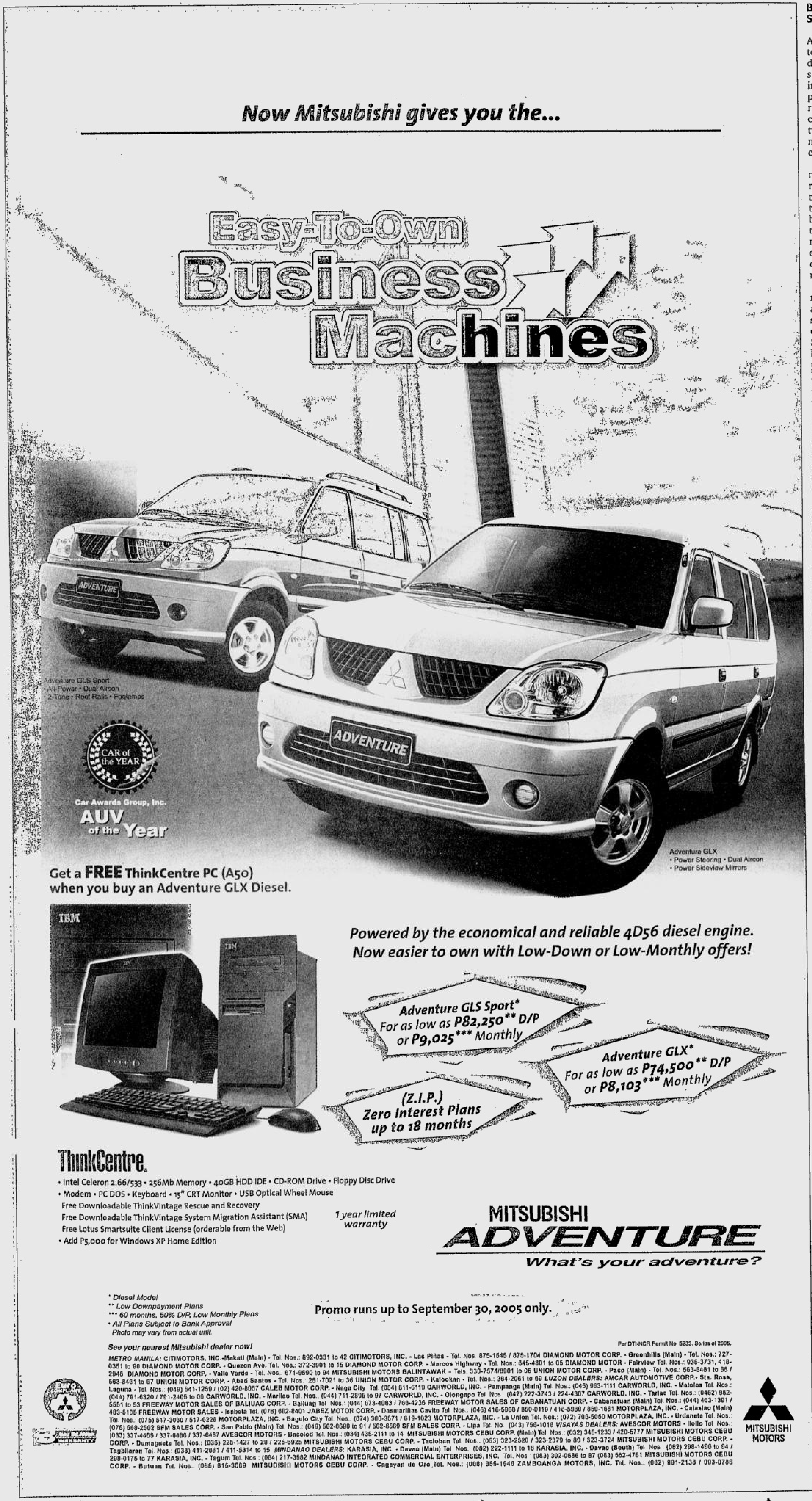
IN THE SEPT. 26 ISsue, a story on Page A32 of the Sports section — "Asistio, Tabuena shine in Samsung golf" — mistakenly used the picture of Jay Bayron instead of Tonlits Asistio's. Above is the photo of Tonlits Asistio.

* * *

IN THE Sept. 27 issue, a story on Page A20 of the Metro section — "Suspect in ABS-CBN case to be released" — misstated the city where Barangay Wack Wack is located. Barangay Wack Wack is in Mandaluyong Cuty — not Muntinlupa City.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo caption on the front page misstated that Sen. Alfredo Lim formerly headed the Philippine National Police. Lim never occupied the top PNP post. He once headed the Western Police District and the National Bureau of Investigation.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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Ex-governor, warden get jail terms for sheltering murder suspect

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS SENtenced a former provincial governor and a jail warden to 12 and 9 years in prison respectively, for shielding a town mayor accused of murder and keeping him out of jail for 85 days seven years ago.

In a ruling released Wednesday, the court's First Division said former Gov. Ruperto Ambil Jr. and provincial jail warden Alejandrino Apelado of Eastern Samar were guilty of graft for extending "unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference" to Francisco Adalim, mayor of the municipality of Taft who was accused of murder in 1998.

Court records show that on the day Adalim was to have been arrested and jailed, his sister and lawyer went to Ambil's home and convinced the governor to take him under his care. Adalim stayed there for 85 days from Sept. 6, 1998 until he was allowed to post bail after the murder charge was reduced to homicide.

Nelson Flores

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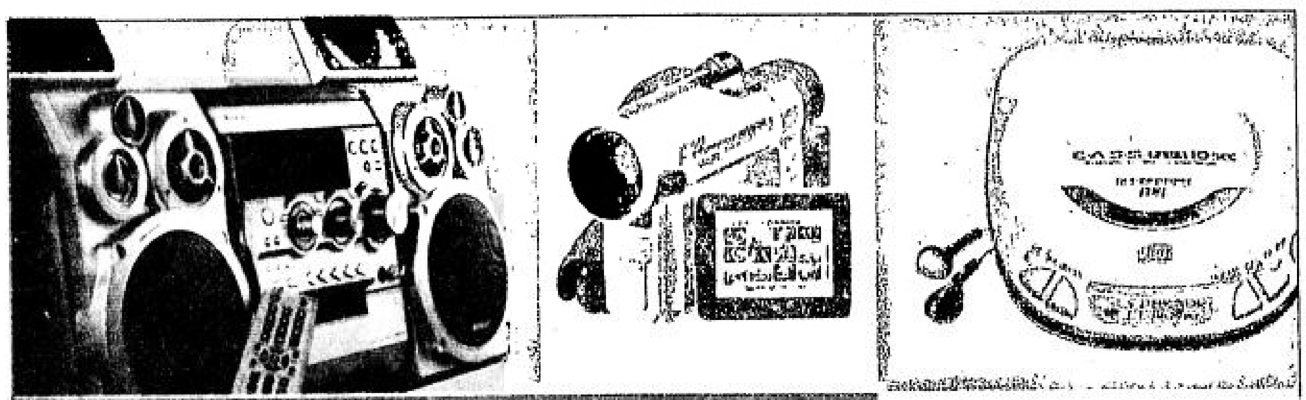

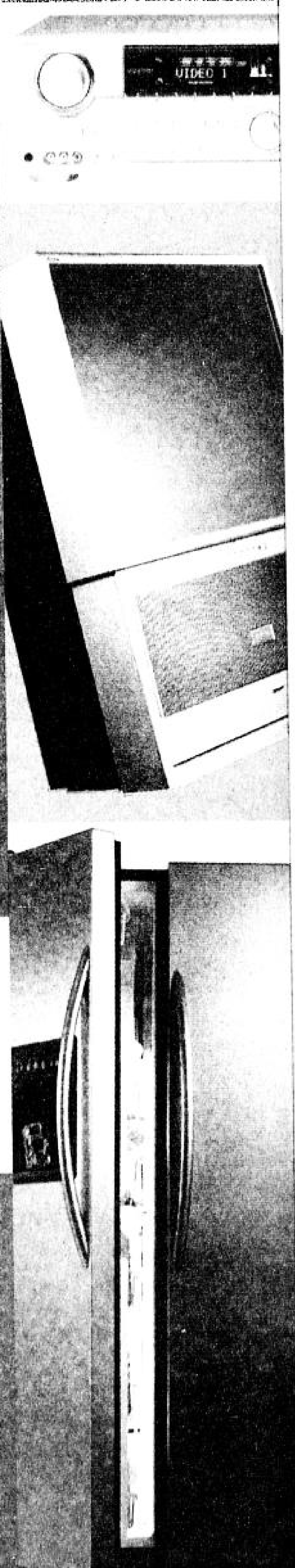

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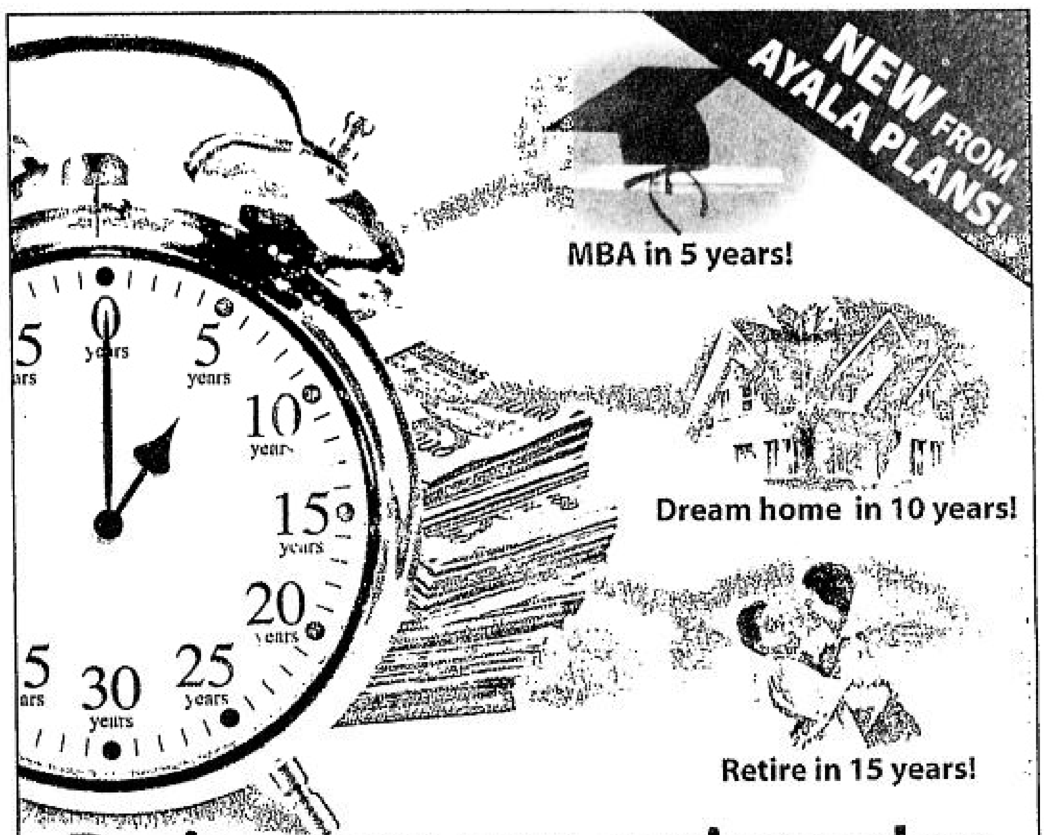

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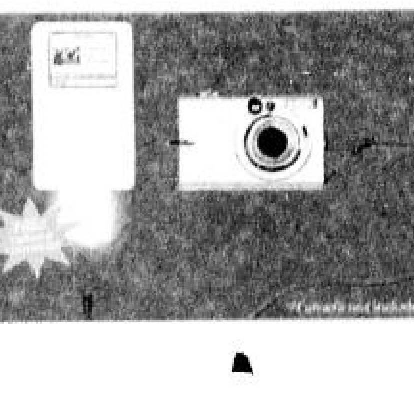

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A HUMBLE MESSAGE TO SOME OF OUR SENATORS:

‘Let’s *not* mislead the people.

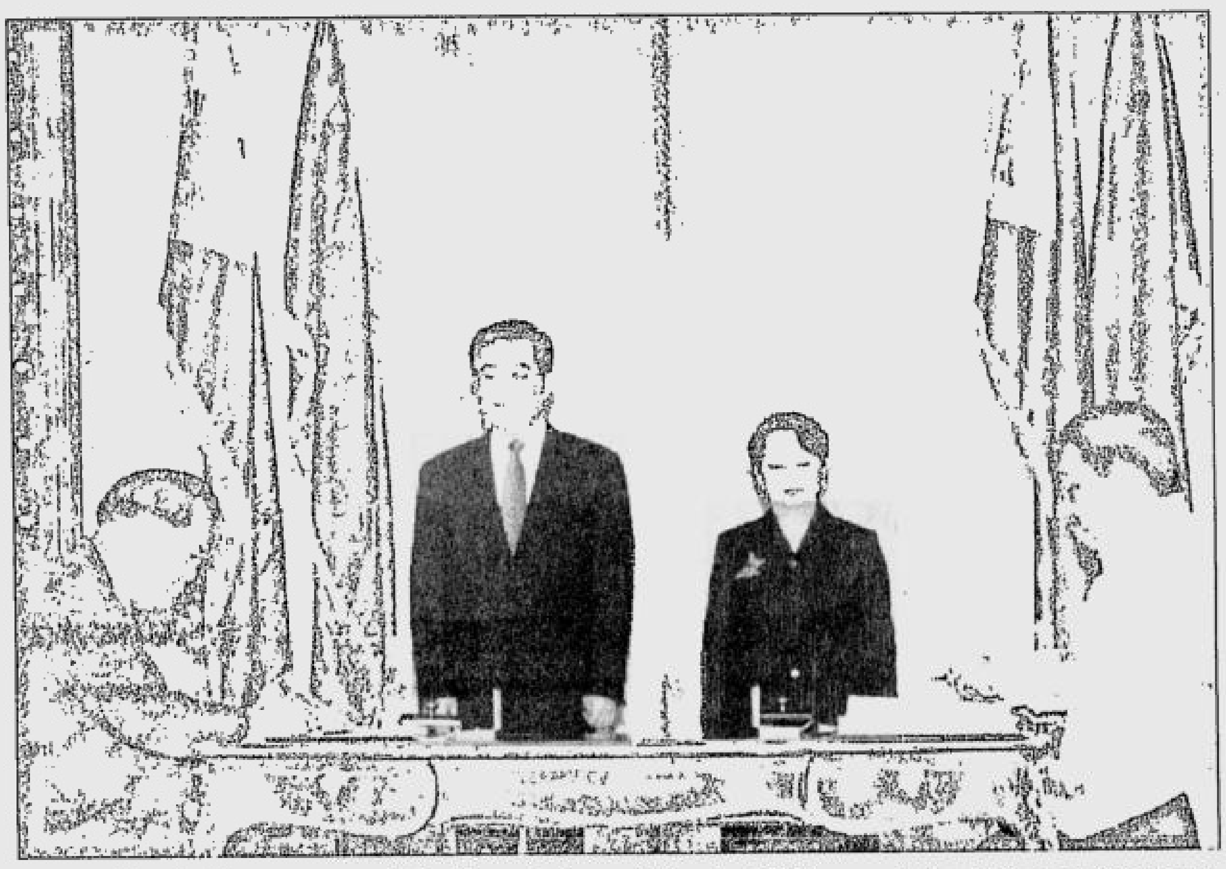
Let’s *not* block the building of the railway!’

The building of the NorthRail’s 32.2-km project from Caloocan to Malolos has drawn some unfair criticisms. Among these is that the project is overpriced; that there was no public bidding; and that the Chinese prime contractor has no experience in building railways.

This message will set the record straight—so that the accusations are fully disproved and our people, our lawmakers, and all other interested sectors are fully informed.

TEN FACTS ABOUT NORTHRAIL

Fact # 1: NorthRail’s is a double-track, double-line railway equivalent to 62.4 kms—the first in the Philippines. The project cost is P360 million per kilometer of a double-track (*not* a single line) system. This should put to rest the critics’ claim that the project is overpriced at P889 million per kilometer of track.



Yang Zilin, (left), governor of the Export-Import Bank of China, and then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, (right), sign the Memorandum of Understanding between China and the Philippines for Section 2 of the NorthRail Project. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witness the signing in Manila last April.

Fact # 2: This TOTALLY NEW railway system includes the construction of six stations, a depot and maintenance yard, communication links, 21 Diesel Multiple Units (84 train cars), a signaling system, grade separation at road crossings, retaining walls, eight major bridges, a viaduct section, and cost of additional rights of way. The total cost is $503.4 million—broken down into: civil and track works ($280.90M); right of way including land acquistions and utilities diversion ($17.50M); signalling and communications ($29. 84M); rolling stock ($87.79) and other costs.

Fact # 3: Compared with the actual costs of the country’s recent rail works, NorthRail is shown to be the cheapest per kilometer of rail.

In Metro Manila, MRT-3’s 33.8 kilometers cost $20.9 million per track-kilometer; LRT-4’s 30.2 track-kilometers, $31.79 million; and LRT-1’s 24-track-kilometer extension would cost more at $35.08 million per track-kilometer. NorthRail’s 64.4 track-kilometers would run to only $6.54 million per kilometer, much cheaper.

Fact # 4: This is a Bilateral Agreement between China and the Philippines, where the Chinese Government designated a 100 percent state-owned company, the China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CNMEC), to be the Prime Contractor for the project. This Prime Contractor is ranked No. 37 by the **Global Engineering News Record** of the 225 Largest International Contractors.

Fact # 5: The rule that procurements for infrastructure projects shall be done through competitive bidding is *not* absolute. It admits of exceptions, one of which is the procurement of infrastructure projects covered by executive agreeements. . . to which the Philippine government is a signatory.

A binding executive agreement affecting the procurement of the NorthRail project exists—the China-RP Loan Agreement of February 26, 2004.

Fact # 6: The loan under this agreement is a “tied loan,” meaning that the Philippines has accepted certain conditions like China’s choice of the prime contractor CNMEC. This tied loan thus effectively dispensed with the competitive bidding requirement. This tied loan is no different from Japan’s Obuchi loans, which Sen. Franklin Drilon defended as Secretary of Justice.

Fact # 7: The Prime Contractor CNMEC, wholly owned by China, can be described as China’s top engineering firm, with a reputation worldwide for providing the efficient and reliable rail system serving the bulk of China’s 1.3 billion people. Its engineering capability to build an international project is beyond doubt..

Fact # 8: When completed, NorthRail from Caloocan to Malolos would be the cheapest mass-transport system in the country.

The basic fare would be P10 plus P1 for every kilometer thereafter—a total of P43 from end to end for the fast 37-minute ride (inclusive of dwell times at stations). The current bus fare is P75 for an hour’s ride.

Fact # 9: The project is being financed and built by the Chinese Government, with no Filipino contractor. Through the China Export-Import Bank, the Chinese Government extended a concessional credit facility of US$400 million (*not* US$500 million) at only 3 percent interest (*not* 7 percent) over 20 years (*not* ten years).

‘A SPECIAL LOAN FOR AN IMPORTANT ALLY’

The Chinese Government describes this assistance as a “special loan for an important ally.” China is known worldwide for its modern, efficient—and the world’s cheapest—rail system serving the bulk of its 1.3 billion people.

Fact # 10: China’s credit facility covers 95 percent (*not* the standard 85 percent) of NorthRail’s project cost. The Philippine Government would put up the remaining five percent as counterpart fund (US$21 million).

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines, H. E. Wu Hungbo, has stressed time and again that the contract is “above board—and we have nothing to hide.”

He chastised the project critics for dragging NorthRail and China needlessly into the political potboiler. He said: “This will not serve the best interest of the Filipino people. I don’t want to get into your endless political debates . . . What I am wary of is that the endless debates on this contract may send a negative message to other Chinese investors and foreign investors as a whole.”

NorthRail’s critics have peddled the overworked fiction that the Chinese loan is onerous. This fictional tale—so poorly plotted—crumbles just as easily in the face of facts that can stand the toughest scrutiny. In fact the Chinese Embassy attache, Peng Xiubin, has described China’s loan to the Philippines as a “preferential loan to an important ally.” The figures prove this: 3 percent interest—the lowest rate—stretched over 20 years. *China’s standard rate for loans is 7 percent over ten years.*

NORTHRAIL OKAYED AT HIGHEST LEVELS

China’s two Presidents, two Prime Ministers, two Speakers of Parliament, and two Ambassadors of the People’s Republic of China endorsed the project—China’s first major under-taking of its kind in Southeast Asia.

On the Philippine Government side, those who approved and endorsed it were: Secretary Romulo Neri, then National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) director-general; the NEDA’s Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC) headed by the Secretary of Finance; Foreign Secretary Delia Albert, and then Finance Secretary Jose Camacho and his successor, Juanita Amatong, and the NEDA Board chaired by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

China and the Philippines signed last April—during Chinese President Hu Jintao’s state visit to the Philippines—the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Section 2 from Malolos to Clark in Pampanga. Then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima signed for the Philippines and Yang Zilin, governor of the Export-Import Bank of China, signed for the People’s Republic of China. Those who witnessed, for the Philippines, were Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and Transportation and Communications Secretary Larry Mendoza.

So encompassing are the project’s potential benefits that political leaders of the provinces through which the line will pass have all expressed their appreciation of the railway modernization program—more than 30 years after the PNR tracks north of Manila were abandoned.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the governors, city mayors and municipal mayors of the Central Luzon provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac and the Northern Luzon provinces of Pangasinan and La Union have hailed the project’s vast potential to create thousands of rural jobs, and raise rural incomes to generate collateral industries in their localities.

What the Project offers is a fast, reliable and cheap transport service that will bring about development, create jobs and decongest Metro Manila—both in population and in vehicular traffic.

PEOPLE TIRED OF NEGATIVE POLITICS

We ask NorthRail’s critics: Keep negative politics and cheap fictional tales out of NorthRail. These days, our people have become too weary of too many tall political tales.

Let us not endanger relations with China; let us not stop the construction of this legacy project; and let us give the Filipino people the modern, cheap, safe, and ultimately efficient mass transport system they deserve!

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PCGG can't sell Imelda jewelry, ex-Solgen warns

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON Good Government (PCGG) does not have the authority to sell the jewelry seized from former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

This was the opinion advanced yesterday by former Solicitor General and Ambassador to the UN Raul Goco.

"The PCGG has no authority to dispose of the jewelry. It needs to abide by its mandate to sequester assets suspected to be ill-gotten," Goco told reporters at the monthly Rotary Club of Manila meeting in Makati.

Goco served as chief government counsel during the term of President Cory Aquino and worked closely with the PCGG to recover the Marcos Swiss bank accounts.

Goco said that under Executive Order No. 1 issued during the Aquino administration, the PCGG was "only limited to sequestration to avoid the dissipation of the assets."

Goco said that while it was possible to seek executive authority from the President to sell the jewels, "it is vital the courts declare it (jewelry) as ill-gotten."

Goco's opinion was backed by former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who was also at the meeting.

Dilangalen said he had read every law pertaining to the PCGG but did not see any provision giving the agency the power to sell seized assets. "The PCGG would be violating the law (if the jewelry were sold)," he said.

But current PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said he saw no legal impediment to the sale of the Marcos gems.

Abcede said Executive Order No. 1 gave the PCGG the authority to "dispose or privatize assets" seized from the Marcoses and their cronies that were proven to be ill-gotten.

"In the past, the PCGG had been disposing of recovered assets. It's crazy to say there is no mandate to dispose of the assets and the jewelry. That's their own opinion," Abcede said.

He said judicial questions regarding the Marcos jewelry had already been resolved by the courts.

He said those against the sale should file another case "to meet judicial scrutiny."

"And we are willing to meet them in court," he added.

The PCGG hopes to auction off the jewelry in November in Switzerland. It had initially estimated the value of the gems at $10 million.

Recently, Abcede raised the estimate to $150 million (P8.4 billion) and mentioned the possibility of including Imelda's fabulous shoe and gown collection in the sale.

Estrada has run out of witnesses, prosecutors say

By Nelson F. Flores

DECRYING THAT THE DEFENSE presentation at the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada was turning into a farce, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday urged defense lawyers to conclude their presentation of evidence so the Sandiganbayan justices hearing the plunder and perjury cases against the ex-President can rule on the guilt or innocence of their client.

Villa-Ignacio made the call after receiving the partial list of witnesses that the defense intends to present in court.

He said that with the exception of Estrada, none of the potential witnesses were really new.

This indicated that the defense panel had no real intention to end the trial, he said.

Villa-Ignacio said most of the names on the list could not possibly have anything to do with proving the innocence or guilt of Estrada.

He said a number have previously testified while some have become an almost permanent fixture at the hearings for their repeated appearances as defense witnesses, like lawyer David Yap.

"*Lokohan na ito* (This is becoming a farce)," said Villa-Ignacio.

Included in the list were the names of Cabinet secretaries Ignacio Bunye, Angelo Reyes, Leandro Mendoza, and Hermogenes Ebdane, and military and police generals Arturo Cerillo, Arturo Braganza, Carlos Braganza, Jonette Santiago, Generoso Senga, Victor Signey and Clyde Fernandez.

Also offered as witnesses were Land Transportation Office assistant secretary Reynaldo Berroya, former justice secretary Hernando Perez, 12 justice department representatives from different Metro Manila offices and a number of lawyers.

Defense lawyer Rene Saguisag said it was Estrada's right to present any witness he deemed necessary in his defense. He said the witnesses were essential in proving the defense panel claim that Estrada was a victim of selective prosecution, discrimination, unequal protection and premature loss of immunity.

Saguisag earlier claimed that the Sandiganbayan Special Division hearing Estrada's plunder case was "programmed to convict" the disgraced leader for which he was admonished by the anti-graft court.

Saguisag said the Supreme Court had already convicted Estrada of plunder when it allegedly "ousted him from office" by swearing in the then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President in 2001.

He explained in a telephone interview that Estrada's removal was given legitimacy when Chief Justice Hilario Davide administered the oath of office to Ms Arroyo.

"The administration of the oath of office was witnessed by 11 other justices who even went to Edsa," Saguisag said.

"By going there they accepted the view that Estrada was a plunderer who ought to be removed from the presidency," he said.

As a consequence, no lower court, the Sandiganbayan included, would go against the collective decision of the high tribunal, Saguisag said.

Another defense lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, said it was not the sworn duty of the prosecution to convict the accused but to seek justice for everybody, including the defendant.

Kindergarten school, owners face tax raps

THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue has charged a private educational institution that collects up to P50,000 per kindergarten pupil with tax evasion for failing to pay P30.5 million in taxes over a period of four years.

Apart from the Ann Arbor Montessori Early Learning Center Inc. in Parañaque City, also named in the charge sheet filed with the Department of Justice yesterday were owner Lourdes Carpio, the school's president, her daughter Christine Carpio-Mintu, the treasurer and other officers.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said that Ann Arbor did not fully declare the revenues it earned from tuition and miscellaneous fees, sale of books, and rentals amounting to P106.5 million, depriving the government of some P19 million in income taxes, including surcharges and interests, from 2001 to 2004.

In addition, the school failed to remit a total of P11.4 million in taxes it should have withheld from its employees during the same period. BIR officials said the company runs kindergarten schools in Parañaque and Calamba, Laguna.

"What is alarming here is that the tax dodging modus was committed by an institution which is expected to inculcate in the minds of youngsters the importance of paying our taxes correctly," Buñag said. "If the institution itself evades the payment of its tax obligations, how can we expect the same to teach its students about the essence of taxation?"

Lawyer Marissa Cabreros, BIR executive assistant for enforcement service, said the school charged P40,000 to P50,000 per student in tuition, books and other expenses per school year. *Cynthia Balana and Armand Nocum*

Farin; 84

BENJAMIN ACHACOSO FARIN SR., FORMER mayor of Iba, Zambales, died yesterday. He was 84. He was the husband of the late Petra del Rosario.

He is survived by his daughters Sonia, Elo and Belinda, sons Arturo and vice mayor Benjamin "Jun" Farin Jr. of Iba, Zambales.

His remains lie at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave. will be transferred to Iba, Zambales on Sunday.

Interment will be on Oct. 5 after the 8 a.m. Mass at the Iba Cemetery.

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PORK SALPICAO

300 g	pork tenderloin	1/4 cup	cooking oil
2 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**	1/2 tsp	salt
2 tsp	calamansi juice	4 Tbsp	butter
2 Tbsp	minced garlic	2 Tbsp	calamansi juice

Procedure:
1. Slice pork tenderloin into medallions.
2. Marinate the pork medallions in combined 2 Tbsp **Silver Swan soy sauce** and 2 tsp calamansi juice for at least 15 minutes.
3. In a frying pan, heat cooking oil and brown the minced garlic. Set aside.
4. Add the marinated medallions into the pan. When color turns golden brown, reduce oil. Remove 2 Tbsp of oil from the pan.
5. Add salt, 2 Tbsp calamansi juice and butter. Heat for 30 seconds.
6. Place into a warm dish and top with toasted garlic. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
21	23	69	1	3	19	6	34	48	21	34	3

A serving meets one third of the recommended nutrient intake for vitamin A. It is also rich in B vitamins like thiamin and niacin.

PAELLA FILIPINA

3 Tbsp	cooking oil	1/2 cup	frozen green peas
1 pc	egg, beaten	1 pc	bisugo daing, fried and flaked
4 cloves	garlic, crushed		
1 pc	small onion, chopped	2 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1 pc	small carrot, diced	4 cups	cooked rice
1/2 kg	tahong, steamed and removed from shells	1/8 kg	cabbage, finely shredded
		2 Tbsp	spring onion, chopped

Procedure:
1. Heat 1 Tbsp oil. Pour beaten egg and cook until it sets. Remove from pan and let it cool. Roll the egg omelet and cut into strips. Set aside.
2. In the same pan, heat remaining oil. Add garlic, onion, carrot, tahong, green peas and daing. Season with **Silver Swan soy sauce.**
3. Stir in rice and mix well. Cover and heat for 3 minutes.
4. Add cabbage and spring onion. Stir to cook the vegetables.
5. Dish out rice on a platter and garnish with the omelet strips. Serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
32	28	38	31	49	54	1	212	37	21	36	24

A serving meets more than 100% of the recommended nutrient intake for vitamin A. It is also packed with calcium, phosphorus, thiamin and niacin.

*Based on July 1 2005 prices

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Japan seen pulling out of Iraq next year

TOKYO—THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING pulling its 600 troops out of Iraq in the first half of next year, the national daily Yomiuri Shimbun said on Thursday, but the government denied it had such a plan.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has already approved an extension of the troops' current mandate, which expires on Dec. 14.

Japan's dispatch of military personnel, first approved in 2003, helped cement close ties between Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and US President George W. Bush, though the troops' activities are limited to humanitarian and reconstruction activities under Japan's pacifist constitution.

Japan's deputy chief cabinet secretary denied the report.

"The government is aware of the report. But there is no truth to the statement that it is considering such a plan," Seiken Sugiura told a news conference.

The Yomiuri said Tokyo was considering the exit plan as Iraq prepares for an October referendum on a new constitution.

Hopes that the adoption of the constitution would improve security in Iraq were dampened this week by a report from the International Crisis Group released in London, saying the rushed approval process had deepened sectarian rifts.

But the main factor in deciding Japan's withdrawal strategy may be decisions made by Britain and Australia, whose troops provide security for the Japanese in southern Iraq.

Japanese officials have said it would be difficult for its troops to maintain security around their base in the southern Iraqi town of Samawa without back-up, the paper said.

The Yomiuri report said both Britain and Australia have told Tokyo they plan to withdraw from Iraq next year.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has dismissed mounting calls to set a timetable for withdrawal of British forces, saying they will remain until local forces can maintain security. *Reuters*

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Woman suicide bomber strikes Iraqi police

MOSUL, IRAQ—A WOMAN SUICIDE bomber blew herself up at an Iraqi police recruitment center on Wednesday, killing five people in an attack claimed by al-Qaida's Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Another five people including two US soldiers were killed in attacks as US President George W. Bush warned again of an upsurge in violence ahead of next month's vote on the draft Iraqi constitution and elections in December.

"As these milestones approach, we can expect there to be increasing violence from the terrorists," Bush said at the White House. "They can't stand elections. The thought of people voting is an anathema to them."

In Tal Afar in northern Iraq, a woman pushed her way into a crowd and blew herself up at a police recruitment center in the first insurgent attack in there since Iraqi forces announced the end of military operations 10 days ago.

It was believed to be the first attack by a female suicide bomber since the end of the 2003 US-led war to oust Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein but insurgents have repeatedly targeted army and police recruitment centers.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Jumaa Mohammed, one of the 35 wounded, said the attack was carried out by a woman wearing Islamic dress. "It was a young woman. She pushed her way through the crowd and then there was an explosion."

Zarqawi's group, which is behind many of the most spectacular attacks and kidnapping and killing of foreign hostages, claimed responsibility in an internet statement that could not be verified. *AFP*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On **September 23, 2005**, the **SANDIGANBAYAN** issued a **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER** against the group headed by Victor Africa and Erlinda Bildner, who continue to represent themselves to the public as alleged directors and officers of Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC) and Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat), which are both sequestered corporations under the supervision of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER** states as follows:

"NOW, THEREFORE, YOU

VICTOR AFRICA
ERLINDA I. BILDNER
SYLVIA K. ILUSORIO
HONORIO POBLADOR III
VICTORIA C. DE LOS REYES
JOHN BENEDICT SIOSON

and any other person or persons acting as your alter-egos, substitutes, assigns, agents, representatives and/or other persons acting on your behalf and upon your instructions, including other persons elected as directors and/or officers together with you, as members of the Board of Directors and officers of POTC and Philcomsat, are hereby ordered to **CEASE and DESIST from committing acts as directors, officers and/or representatives of or on behalf of POTC and Philcomsat,** including the calling of a stockholders' meeting and the conduct of any other meeting of the said corporations, within a period of sixty (60) days from today."

THE PUBLIC IS ACCORDINGLY NOTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING PERSONS LED BY VICTOR AFRICA AND ERLINDA I. BILDNER CANNOT ACT ON BEHALF OF POTC AND PHILCOMSAT OR REPRESENT THE CORPORATIONS IN ANY WAY. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED INTO BY THESE PERSONS OR THEIR AGENTS SHALL NOT BE HONORED BY POTC AND PHILCOMSAT.

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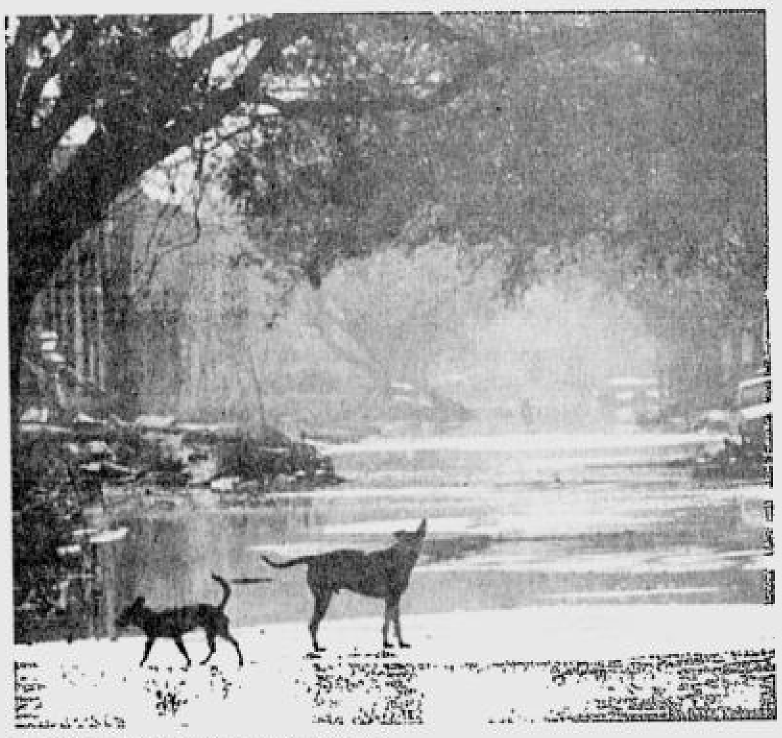

DESOLATE NEW ORLEANS
A pair of dogs wander the deserted streets of the Ninth Ward district of New Orleans Sept. 28. The area is nearly dried out for the second time since Hurricane Katrina devastated the area a month ago. AP

9 dead in suicide attack on Afghan Army center

KABUL—A SUICIDE BOMBER ON a motorcycle blew himself up at an Army training center in the Afghan capital Wednesday, killing eight soldiers and a civilian and wounding 28 other troops, the defense ministry said.

Taliban rebels claimed responsibility for the powerful blast, which ripped through a crowd of soldiers waiting to take buses home from the base on the eastern outskirts of Kabul, officials and witnesses said.

It was the first major attack in Afghanistan since the war-scarred country held landmark parliamentary elections 10 days ago, and follows a period of relative calm in the city.

"Today just after 4:30 p.m. a man riding on a motorbike and wearing a military uniform carried out a suicide attack in front of the Kabul Military Training center," defense ministry spokesperson Mohammed Zahir Azimi said.

Eight of the dead and all of the wounded were Afghan soldiers, Azimi said, while the bodies of four of the soldiers were too badly burned to be immediately identified. Three vehicles were also destroyed, he said.

A purported spokesperson for the ousted Taliban regime, which was toppled by US-led forces in 2001, said one of its fighters had carried out the attack on the base. His claim could not be verified independently.

"We take responsibility for today's suicide attack," Abdul Latif Hakimi said from an unknown location. "It was carried out by Mullah Sardar Mohammad, from Kabul. The number of casualties is much higher than the authorities say."

Witnesses said guards allowed the bomber through the gates to the compound because of his uniform. He then accelerated and steered the bike at a gap between the waiting buses.

"It was rush hour and I was waiting with everyone for their buses to go home, when I saw a motorcycle rushing towards lots of buses and people in the parking area," an Afghan Army major told an AFP reporter near the scene.

"Suddenly I heard a huge boom. I fell to the ground and when I stood up I saw several bodies scattered around. Two buses were on fire and there was human flesh around me."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the blast and ordered an immediate investigation.

"I am saddened that the lives of many Afghan people, mainly soldiers serving the Afghan nation, were lost. I condemn the attack in the strongest terms," he said in a statement.

A Western military source speaking on condition of anonymity said the victims were all Afghans and none were serving with either the US military or with the Nato-led peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

Dozens of peacekeepers and police closed off the Jalalabad road leading the blast site. Many organizations have warehouses along the road, including the body in charge of the recent elections. *AFP*

2 more kids in Indonesia possible bird flu victims

JAKARTA—INDONESIAN OFFicials said Thursday they are investigating two more suspected bird flu deaths as local and foreign experts strove to stem an outbreak which has already killed six people and may have infected dozens of others this year.

Doctors will take blood and mucus samples from relatives of two children who died last week at Demak in Central Java province after showing symptoms similar to those of bird flu, said provincial health chief Budiharjo.

A health ministry official in Jakarta, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the country has had 63 confirmed or suspected cases of human bird flu infection so far this year.

Six of the 63 have died although tests on the latest fatality are still not fully confirmed for bird flu. Some of those infected have shown no symptoms and others have made a full recovery.

The H5N1 strain of the disease has also killed 43 in Vietnam, 12 in Thailand and four in Cambodia.

Indonesia has declared it is facing an "extraordinary" outbreak of the virus, allowing it to order suspected cases into hospital among other measures.

A team of Japanese experts arrived this week to advise on counter-measures and further shipments of the anti-viral medication Tamiflu have been imported.

The team are to visit the country's main hospital dealing with bird flu cases, the Sulianti Saroso hospital for infectious diseases in Jakarta.

The hospital on Thursday admitted an adult showing symptoms of the disease, bringing the total number of patients there to 16.

The health ministry official said the 63 cases could be broken down into three categories—confirmed, probable and suspected cases.

A suspected case shows clinical symptoms such as high fever, said Sardikin Giriputro, deputy director of Sulianto Saroso hospital.

The cases must also have had contact with possible sources of infection, such as fowls.

Probable cases have had initial tests that strengthened suspicion of infection, including X-rays showing that pneumonia had developed, he said.

Confirmed cases have clinically and serologically tested positive, and had the results confirmed by the World Health Organization through further tests in Hong Kong.

Only five of the 63 were confirmed bird flu cases, nine were probable cases and the rest were suspected, the ministry official said.

A second zoo was shut down Wednesday after two samples taken from birds at the facility in Semarang proved positive, city tourism office chief Agus Sudarmaji told AFP.

Jakarta's Ragunan zoo closed earlier this month for the same reason.

The WHO fears H5N1 will mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious and lethal to millions in a global pandemic.

But it has also urged calm, saying investigations in Indonesia had produced no evidence that H5N1 was spreading easily from person to person. *AFP*

Massive strike cripples India's airports, banks

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI—HUNDREDS OF thousands of bank workers and airport staff across India stayed away from work on Thursday to protest against economic reforms in a strike led by the ruling coalition's communist allies.

Airlines canceled or rescheduled flights, shutters were down at state-run bank branches and trading volumes on India's currency and bond markets fell to a trickle.

In Kolkata, the capital of communist-ruled West Bengal state once known as Calcutta, public transport was brought to a standstill and factories, offices and schools remained shut in protest against government plans for privatization, bank mergers and foreign investment in pension funds and airports.

In Mumbai, India's financial hub once known as Bombay, about a thousand bank workers carrying union placards marched from branch to branch shouting "Down with bank mergers!" and "Down with the government!"

The strike has been called by the United Forum of Bank Unions, which represents nearly 95 percent of more than 1.3 million bank and insurance workers.

India has about 300 banks led by State Bank of India and the Congress party-led government wants some of the public sector ones to merge and become more competitive but the unions say fewer bigger banks would not necessarily lead to strength.

C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary at the All India Bank Employees' Association said, "The strike is successful. No cash transactions are taking place, no clearing activities are done."

Private sector and foreign banks, which do not have many staff in trade unions, were functioning although some said cash counters were closed. Stock market trading was normal. *Reuters*

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R&D boon seldom gets to poor countries—UN

GENEVA—MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS are moving an ever larger chunk of their research and development activities to developing countries, but only a few such as China and India are benefiting, the UN said Thursday.

The current trend bypasses large parts of the developing world because countries must offer skilled workers, innovative domestic companies and a stable regulatory environment to attract such R&D funds, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development warned in its annual World Investment Report.

"For developing countries that currently have weak innovation capabilities, an influx of R&D from transnational companies cannot be expected in the short term," the 332-page report said.

Meanwhile, overall global investment by businesses in foreign markets increased by 18 percent to $730 billion in 2004, marking a sharp reversal after a two-year decline.

That trend was driven by companies' quest to lower their costs and explore new markets, the report noted. Higher commodity prices, mainly for oil and minerals, have led businesses to invest heavily in mining and refining industries in mineral-rich countries. In addition, the study pointed to a rebound in international merger and acquisition activities.

Although the internationalization is not new, stronger competitive pressures force companies to innovate faster and to do so at lower costs.

Most large international companies such as General Electric Co., Vodafone Group PLC and Ford Motor Co. named China as their preferred location for future R&D expansion, followed by the US and India. Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand are also benefiting, the study noted.

"Firms now view parts of the developing world as key sources not only of cheap labor, but also of growth, skills and even new technologies," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in the preface to the study.

In the past, companies invested in foreign markets to adapt their products to local needs and tastes, but now they tend to develop their technology for the regional or even global market.

For example, Southeast and East Asia now account for one-third of the global semiconductor design industry, compared to almost nothing in the mid-1990s, while US-based businesses are now carrying out over 10 percent of their overseas R&D in Asia, up from 3 percent in 1994. In China, the number of foreign R&D units rose from zero to 700 within 10 years.

Another new trend is that emerging economies profiting most from the inflows, China and India, are themselves becoming important investors abroad. For example, China's growing demand for natural resources has resulted in large investment projects in Latin American countries.

"They are not only attracting (funds) but also becoming overseas investors," Kai Hammerich, president of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies told a news conference in New York. "Other countries that I think will join in ... (are) Russia, Malaysia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey."

Almost half of global foreign investment originates in the United States, Britain and Luxembourg, the report said, with outflows from America alone increasing by 90 percent, to $230 billion. In contrast, foreign investment by businesses in the European Union declined by 25 percent, to $280 billion.

Asia and Oceania, which count as one region, are the top receivers. The region attracted $148 billion in funds, almost 50 percent more than in 2003. Increasing investment in Hong Kong is the main driver in East Asia, while South Asia received $7 billion flowing mainly into India.

AP

Bin Laden eyed asylum in Britain, says ex-minister

BIN LADEN

LONDON—HE MIGHT be the self-professed enemy of the West, but a decade ago terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden considered seeking asylum in Britain, the country's interior minister of the time has said.

Michael Howard told The Times on Thursday that the request from the al-Qaida chief appeared to be serious.

According to the newspaper, in 1995 Bin Laden wanted to abandon his then-base in Sudan and asked some of his followers in London to sound out whether he would be able to move to Britain.

At the time, the Saudi-born radical was little known in the West, although al-Qaida had already planned an abortive plot to destroy a series of airliners, seen as a precursor to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

A number of Bin Laden's brothers and other members of the wealthy family construction empire owned properties in London at that time, the paper added.

"In truth, I knew little about him, but we picked up information that Bin Laden was very interested in coming to Britain," Howard, now leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, told the paper.

"It was apparently a serious request. He already had people operating here, and who knows how history could have been rewritten if he had turned up here?"

Howard noted that if Bin Laden had come to Britain to plot the Sept. 11 attacks, in theory he could not have been sent for trial to the United States as British laws prevent the extradition of suspects to countries where they could face the death penalty.

However, no application was made as Home Office officials investigated Bin Laden and Howard issued an immediate banning order under immigration laws.

The Times cited Home Office officials as saying Bin Laden used a Saudi businessman, Khaled al-Fawwaz, to sound out his chances of coming to Britain.

Fawwaz was described by British security officials as Bin Laden's "de facto ambassador" in Britain, the paper added.

According to some reports, the teenage Bin Laden went round Europe with his family, even becoming a fan of London football club Arsenal, although there is no concrete evidence to back this up.

Since US forces invaded Afghanistan following Sept. 11, Bin Laden has spent four years in hiding, and is widely believed to be sheltering along the rugged and remote Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

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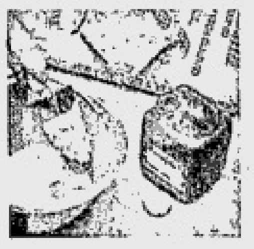

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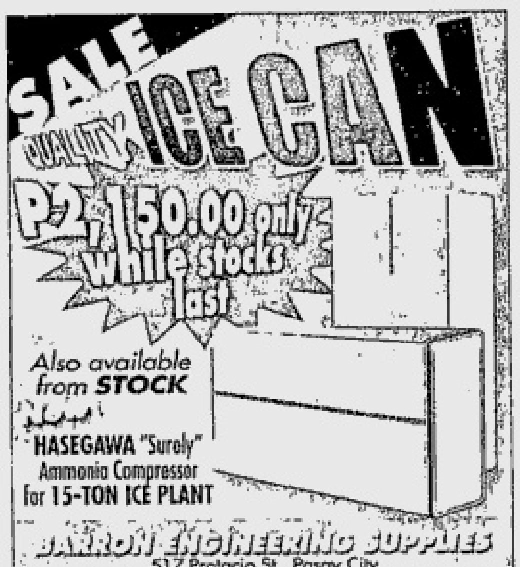

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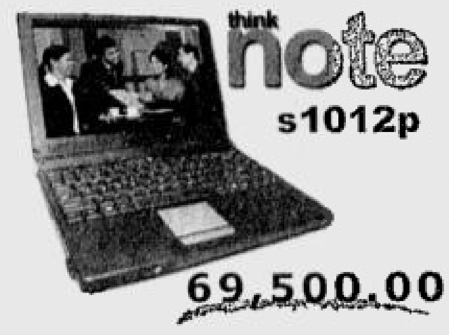

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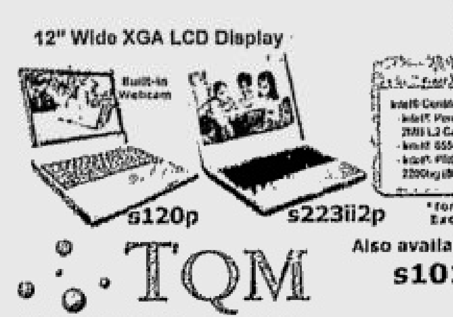

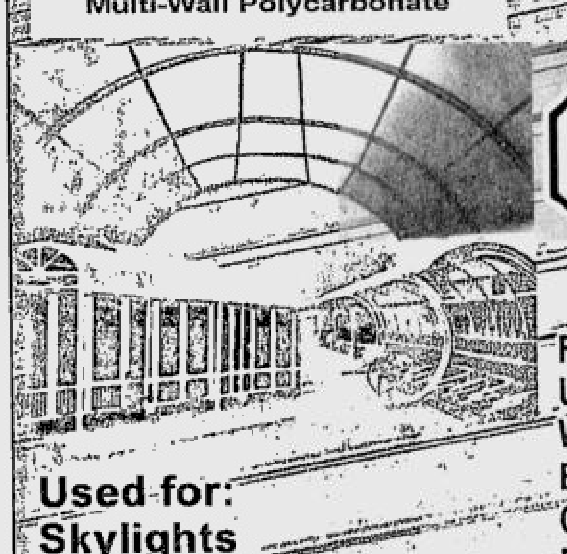

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US Congress warns Japan of sanctions over beef

WASHINGTON—THE US CONGRESS THREATened possible sanctions against Japan Wednesday if it did not lift a 21-month ban on imports of American beef, putting pressure on President George W. Bush to resolve the biggest pending bilateral issue.

"At some point you draw a line, this hearing is drawing the line. There are no more tomorrows," Bill Thomas, the Republican chair of the House of Representatives ways and means committee, told US government officials after they testified on the beef issue and other market access problems with Japan.

"It is absolutely stonewalling," a fuming Thomas said of Japan's reluctance to ease the ban on US beef, which is draining the American cattle industry $100 million every month.

Thomas did not say what measures would be taken but the Republican head of the Senate Agriculture Committee Saxby Chambliss said Tuesday that trade sanctions might have to be taken to underline growing US frustration at Japan's failure to lift the ban.

More than 100 legislators have written to Bush asking that he make restoring market access for US beef to Japan his highest economic priority, said Jerry Moran, the representative from Kansas, demanding a House vote on retaliatory economic measures on Japan.

Moran, who hails from the largest beef-producing state in the nation, demanded that a pending House bill seeking sanctions on Tokyo be put to a vote to "show Japan the serious nature of this trade issue."

"Japan cannot have it both ways—they cannot benefit from exports to the US while denying our imports, such as beef, with no scientific evidence to support their actions," he said.

Loss of revenue from the US beef ban is having "a large and negative impact on our entire beef industry and puts at risk our well established bilateral trade relationship," he said.

Some 10,000 jobs have been lost since the ban.

The US Senate voted last week to ban imports of a Japanese delicacy, Kobe beef, until Tokyo lifts the ban on US beef. Kobe beef comes from cattle massaged with sake and fed a diet enriched with beer.

Tokyo had imposed the ban after the United States confirmed its first case of mad cow disease in December 2003. *AFP*

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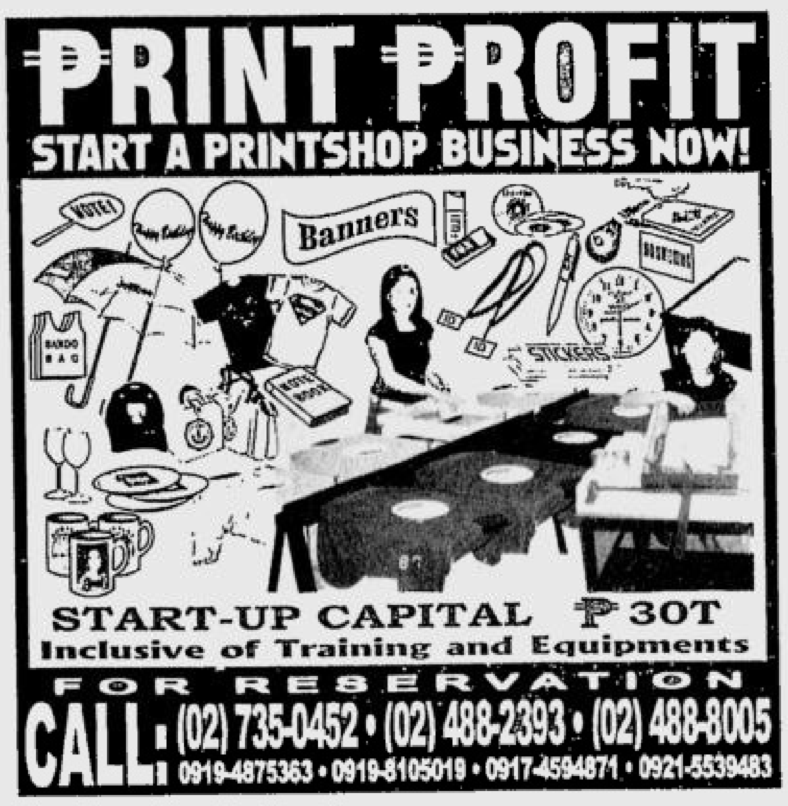
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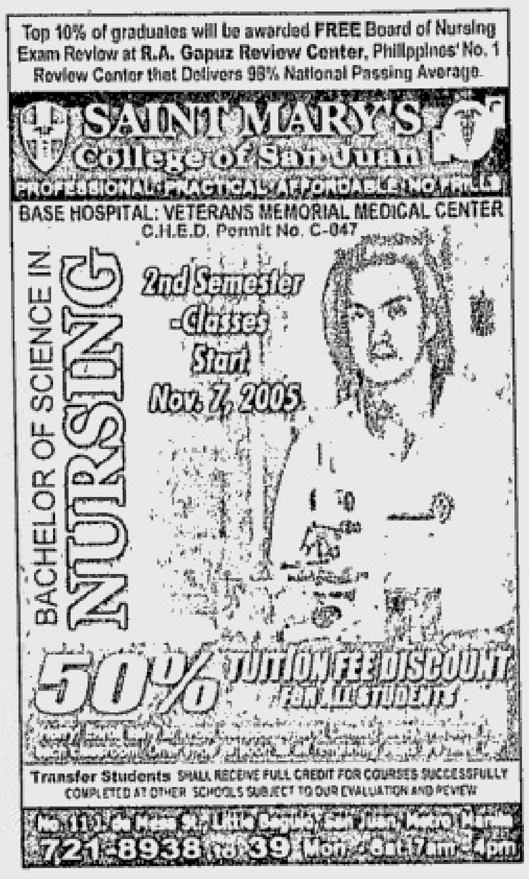
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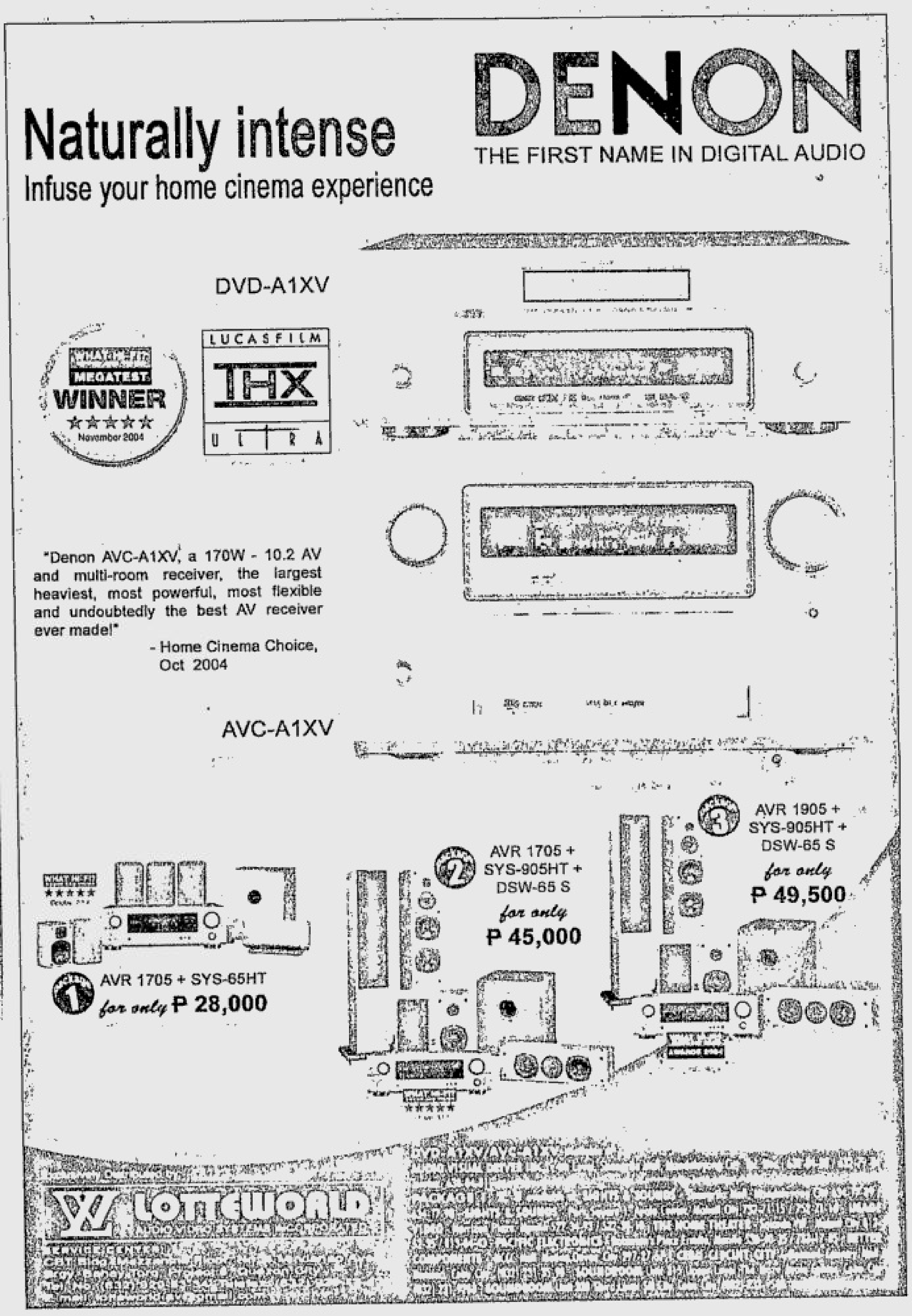
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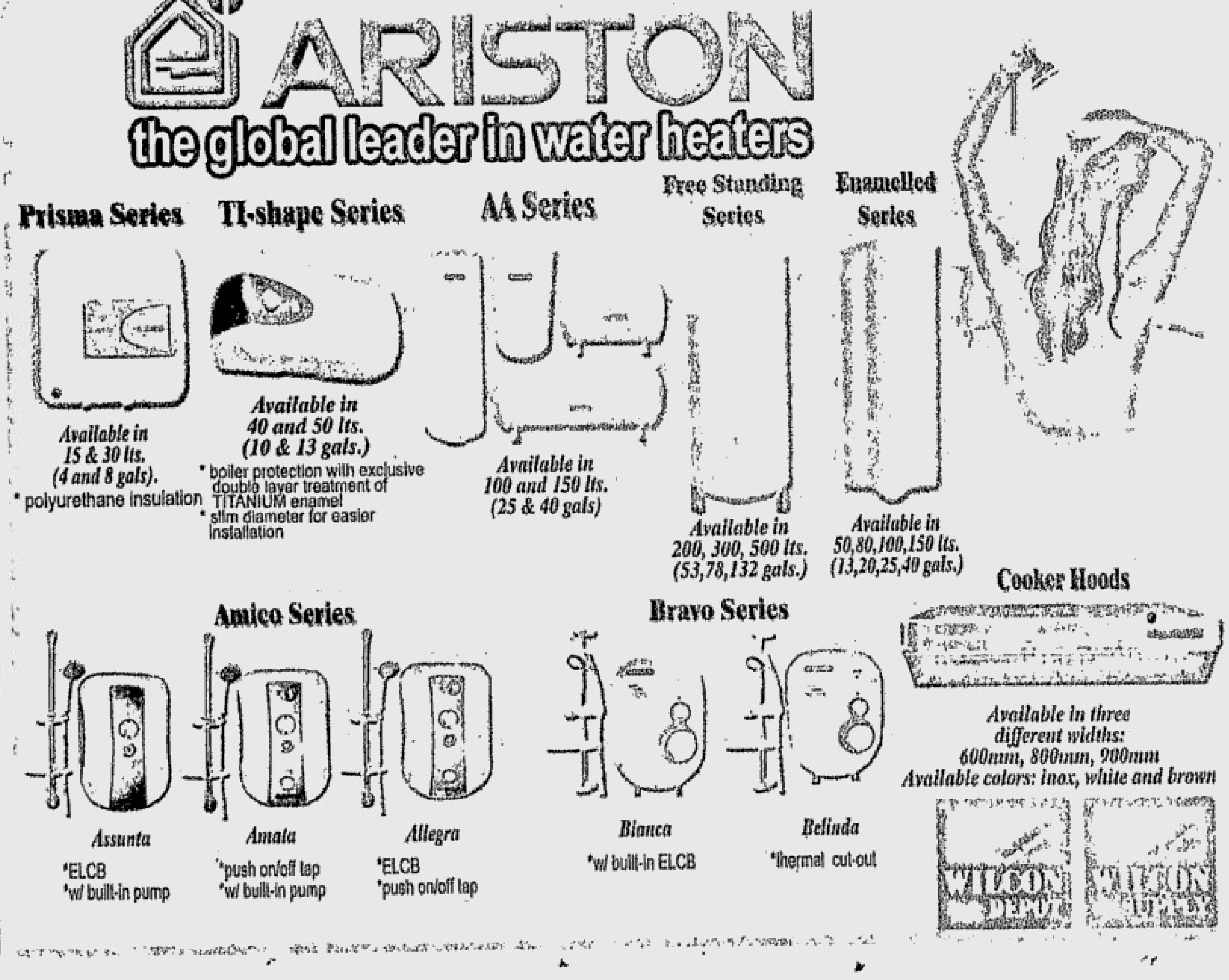
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BUSH ally Rep. Tom DeLay AP

US House leader quits over finance indictment

WASHINGTON—TOM DELAY, A POWERFUL political ally of President George W. Bush, stepped down as head of the Republican majority in the House of Representatives Wednesday after being indicted on a campaign finance charge.

DeLay vowed he was only stepping aside temporarily, and said the case by a Texas prosecutor was part of a "partisan vendetta." But the indictment came as a political bombshell in Congress as the President George W. Bush struggles to push his legislative agenda.

A Texas grand jury charged DeLay and two political associates of converting $190,000 in corporate money into individual campaign contributions to avoid campaign finance restrictions.

The Washington power broker could be jailed for between six months and two years and face a $10,000 fine if found guilty. He had to step down as the majority leader under congressional rules.

"I have notified the speaker that I will temporarily step aside from my position," DeLay said in a statement. House Republicans named Roy Blunt of Missouri as the new leader. He will share the job with Congressman David Dreier of California.

Senior Republican colleagues rallied around DeLay.

"We stand firmly behind Tom DeLay and ask that he be afforded the same rights as every other American—that is innocent until proven otherwise," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

The DeLay case has been investigated since an election in Texas in November 2002 by Ronnie Earle, district attorney for Travis County.

Without going into details on the case, Earle told a press conference in Texas, "Our job is to prosecute abuses of power. Our job is to bring those abuses to the attention of the public through juries."

DeLay, widely considered one of the most powerful political operators in Washington, has faced a series of ethics allegations.

The 58-year-old former pest exterminator, who comes from Sugarland, Texas, is known as "The Hammer" for his sometimes ruthless approach to politics.

He has masterminded Republican election victories as well as pushing through White House goals in Congress. DeLay was also instrumental in Republicans taking control of the Texas legislature from the Democrats.

DeLay seemed relaxed as he vigorously condemned the prosecutor at a press conference in the Capitol building. *AFP*

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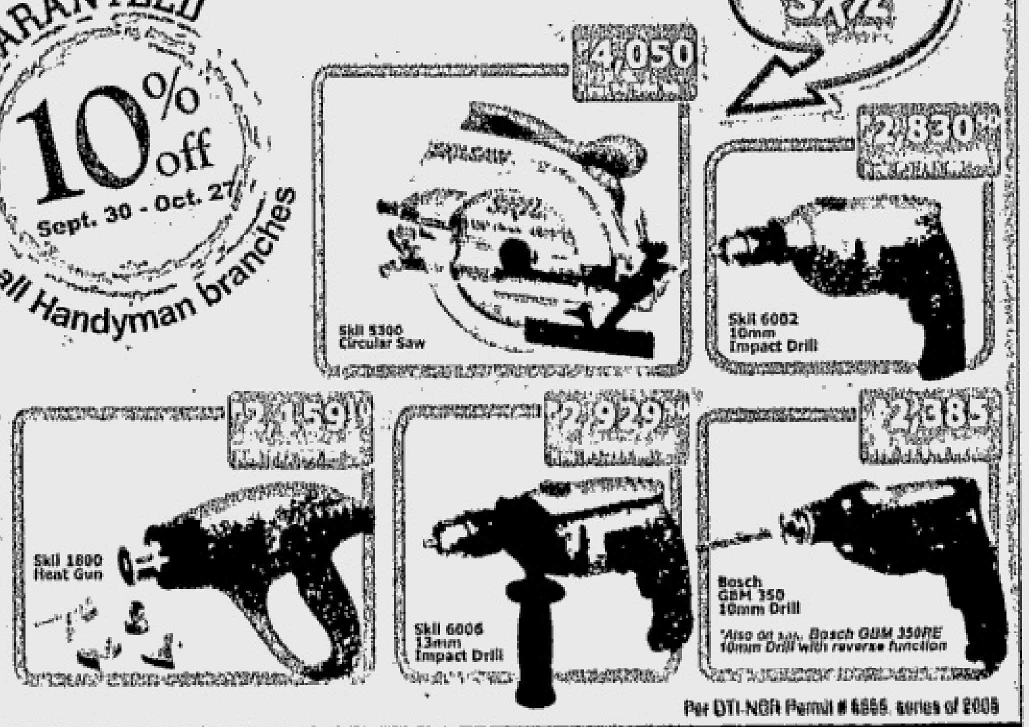
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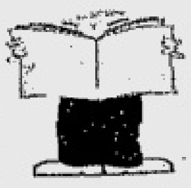

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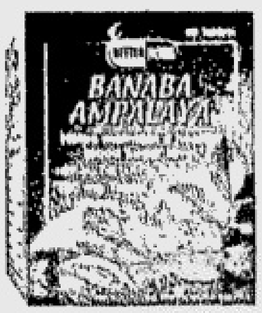

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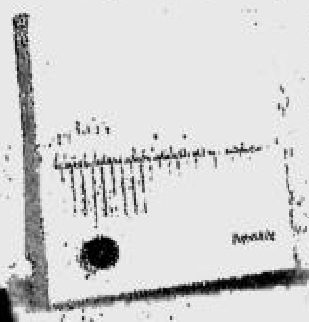

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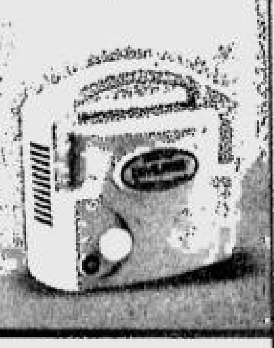

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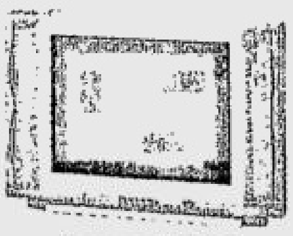

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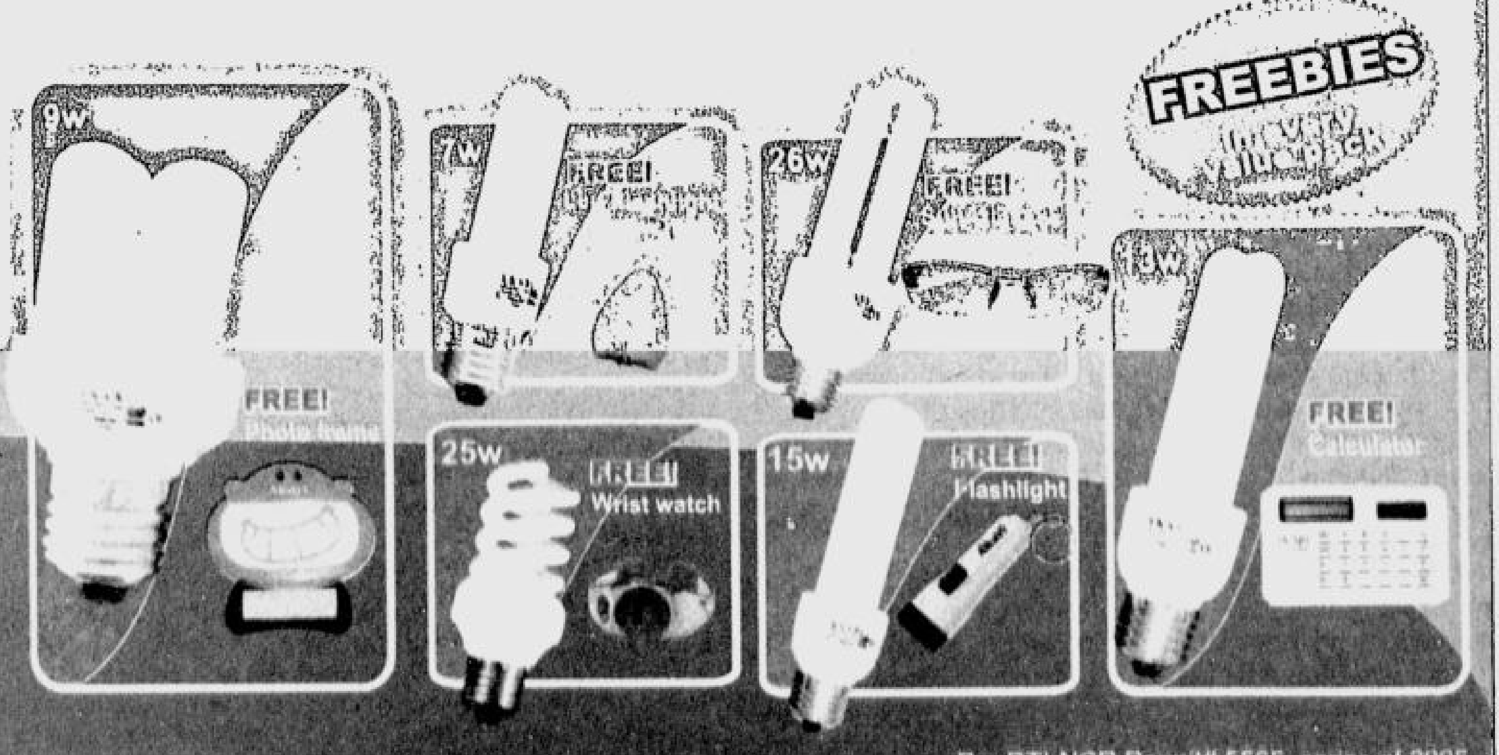

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On the same boat

EDITORIAL

THE DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST BATCH OF THE "remnants" of the so-called "boat people" marked a poignant moment for both Vietnam and the Philippines. On the one hand, it brought the refugee problem that swept Southeast Asia and the West immediately after the victory of the communists in Indochina to its closing chapter, even as it leaves unresolved questions on how to deal with asylum-seekers fleeing from totalitarian regimes.

The boat people represent the wages of the Cultural Revolution, which was borne out of the utopian fantasy that was communist reeducation. In their eagerness to reinvent the economic wheel, the communist ideologues and bosses sent professionals and merchants—the bourgeois elite in their estimation—to the farms for reeducation. Although the degree of cultural experiment varied (it seemed harsher in Cambodia than in Vietnam), the fantasy turned into a monumental nightmare. Industries and professions were emptied of intellectuals, educators, scientists and businessmen. Poverty was socialized. Widespread famine ensued. Blind to its own depredations that caused the general poverty, the communist bosses freely pointed their guns at the people. Rice fields became killing fields.

Not wishing to be part of the killing fields, thousands of Indochinese boarded rickety boats and headed for the high seas. They would rather brave uncertain weather than face certain death at home. Their intrepidity had touches of madness—and this madness defied reservations—particularly in the West—that the boat people were not political dissidents but merely "economic migrants." The tag glosses over the fact that the search for political sanctuary is as much a product of economics as politics.

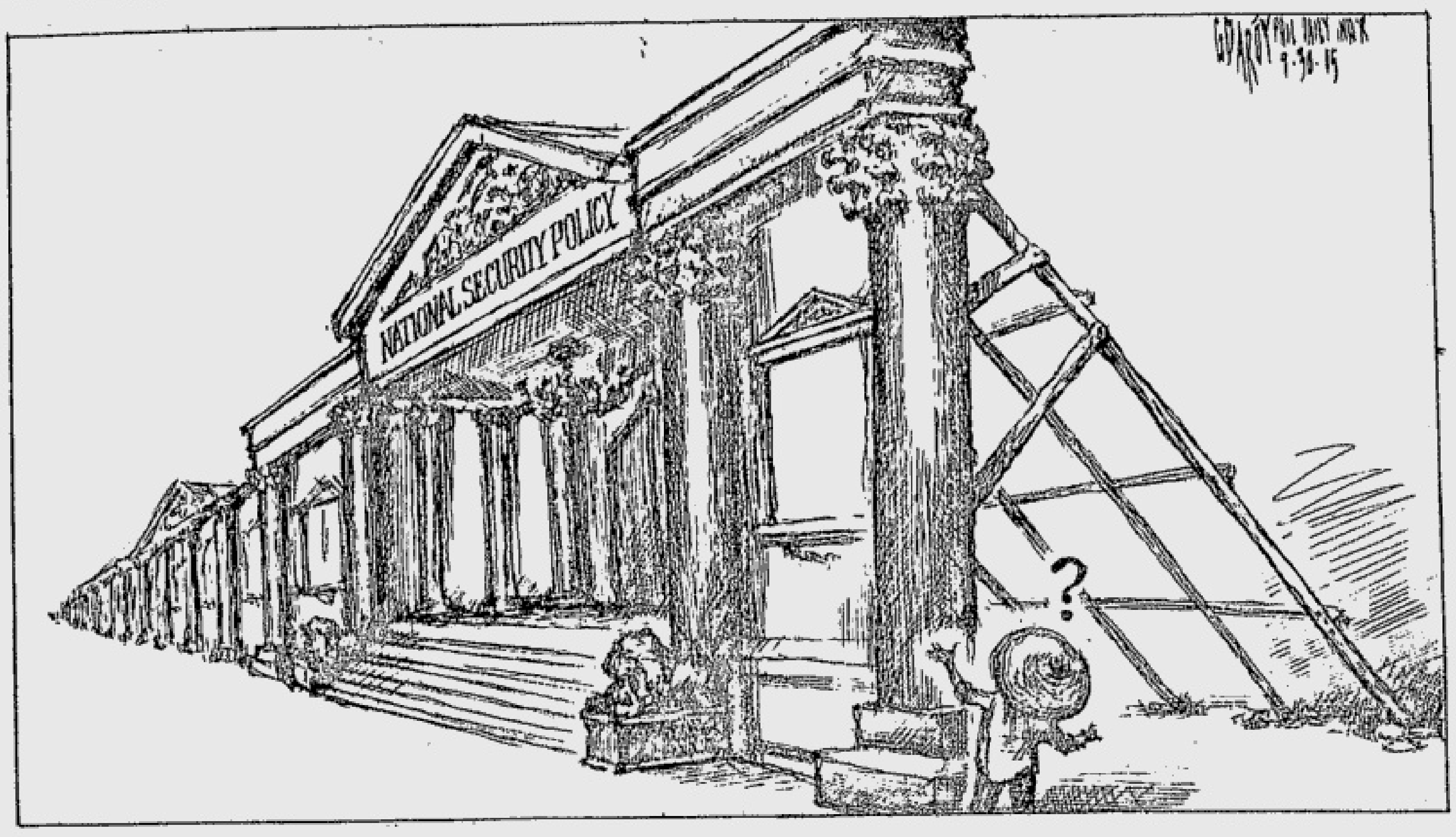
The Philippines, of course, knows the economic determinism that propels a diaspora. Filipinos themselves have made an art out of migration. Many of them take pride in the income they make from their jobs abroad—income that translates to dollar remittances to their home country and keeps the domestic economy afloat. But they themselves admit that if they could make generous income at home, they would rather stay put. They know that the Indochinese people were hurting. They felt the hurt.

Perhaps, that explains why, unique among Southeast Asians, the Philippines welcomed the boat people instead of turning them away. It put up refugee processing centers in Puerto Princesa and Bataan that became models for refugee-hosting around the world. When the Ramos administration in 1996 put its foot down and refused to accept more boat people, even turning away one batch and leading it back to the mercies of the high seas, the Catholic Church and civil society cried foul. The Ramos administration received a stern scolding; it later backtracked on its policy of forced repatriation.

The Catholic Church, through Bishop Ramon Arguelles, the military chaplain at that time and chair of the bishops' commission on migration, raised money to purchase a 10-hectare land in Palawan that came to be known as Vietville. When the village was inaugurated in 1998, a US-based Vietnamese Buddhist monk came to the inauguration and praised the Philippines and the Catholic Church. "We have heard praises for what you have done for the people," said the Venerable Thich Giac Nhien. "I'd like to tell the world of our admiration for the Church and the government of the Philippines."

Today, Vietville showcases the acculturation of the Vietnamese and other Indochinese to Philippine life. It shows how Filipinos practice their hospitality not only in word but in deed. Early this week, when 229 of the 1,600 stateless individuals left the Philippines for the United States, many expressed profuse thanks to the Filipinos. They said they would surely miss the sounds, sights and scents of the Philippines—from television variety shows such as "Eat Bulaga," to Filipino dishes such as the sour broth *sinigang*, and even the unique brand of Filipino humor that pokes fun at Filipino misery and travails. The same humor made them endure the ordeal of being "stateless" persons, they said.

But despite the hardships, the Philippines will continue to play a humanitarian role in refugee problems. Bishop Arguelles said it best about the boat people and about the Filipinos' willingness in helping them: "They are not here knocking on our doors. We have accepted them to share in our simplicity. We will do this again if given the chance." The prelate's message was clear: Filipinos will continue to help those fleeing injustice and poverty, and it's not just because they're on the same boat.



Unfinished footbridges on Commonwealth

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS SOMETIME AGO that the Metro Manila Development Authority will construct about 10 more footbridges in various parts of the metropolis—three or four of them in Quezon City. Before the MMDA does that, shouldn't it first finish the two unfinished footbridges on Commonwealth Avenue? One is at the corner of Tandang Sora Avenue; the other is midway between Tandang Sora and the Ever-Gotesco mall.

The two footbridges are almost complete, and it's a shame that they cannot be used because a few parts are missing. The Tandang Sora footbridge needs only the last span, over the right lane of Commonwealth Avenue going to Fairview, and the stairs on that side. The other footbridge needs only the stairs on both sides. Meanwhile, pedestrians risk life and limb when crossing the wide Commonwealth Avenue as a slew of speeding vehicles speed through.

The unfinished footbridges have been abandoned for so long that the steel beams and trusses are beginning to rust. The construction of these structures was started during the 2004 poll campaign. Big billboards were put up to announce that they were projects of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The billboards carried her smiling face to make sure people didn't forget her come election time.

But after the elections, the government forgot they were still unfinished. The workers just stopped working and the billboards were taken away.

There's some mystery here. I asked MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando why the unfinished footbridges are being left to rust, and he answered that they are not MMDA projects but the Department of Public Works and Highways'. I asked a public works undersecretary the same question, and he replied that they are MMDA projects; the DPWH only provided the building materials. Now, which is the truth?

I think Fernando is telling the truth because both unfinished footbridges are painted silver. MMDA bridges are painted with MMDA's distinctive pink-and-blue trademark. DPWH bridges are painted silver, like that one near the Sandiganbayan, also on Commonwealth, from where that crazy guy jumped with his baby.

Considering that the DPWH constructed bridges in Nueva Ecija, in places with no rivers, it is strange that the agency refuses to finish these two relatively small footbridges, which are sorely needed by pedestrians. It is also strange that Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has not asked the DPWH to finish them. Will they just allow them to rust and collapse?

* * *

Still another mystery is the behavior of the policemen and traffic aides assigned to the Tandang Sora-Commonwealth intersection. This is a very busy intersection, despite the existence of the flyover. Pedestrians risk their lives when they cross this part of Commonwealth. There are pedestrian lanes—the paint now fading—but drivers don't pay attention to them.

There is a big sign here saying "Strictly no loading/unloading—SB" (the SB stands for Sonny Belmonte, the mayor). But nobody pays attention to this sign, not the drivers, not the commuters, and not the traffic enforcers. Buses and jeepneys stop right on top of the pedestrian lane, beside the SB sign, blocking the path of pedestrians wanting to cross; and they load and unload passengers in violation of a traffic regulation with impunity. There are even "barkers" for the jeepneys.

And this takes the cake. There are many traffic enforcers around, some in yellow shirts, others in blue. The yellow-shirts come from the City Hall and the blue-shirts are from the MMDA. At times, a number of motorcycle cops and police cars are parked under the flyover. And there is a police community precinct with a small jail right under the flyover, literally within spitting distance from the crossing. Yet traffic here is terrible at all times.

Nobody tells the drivers not to block the pedestrian lane and not to load and unload there. Nobody tells the barkers not to ply their business there. Nobody arrests the drivers loading and unloading passengers in the forbidden places. The government has built two waiting sheds, one on each side of Commonwealth, to protect commuters from sun and rain, but nobody uses them. Instead, commuters stand in the middle of the street to wait for rides.

What are the traffic enforcers doing? You see them there, waving their arms at passing vehicles but nobody obeys them—and they don't care. As long as they wave their arms, they think they're doing their jobs.

The barker, standing beside policemen on the pedestrian lane, backdropped by the big "No loading/unloading" sign, keeps on calling for passengers. Jeepneys stop beside them to wait and load passengers, but the policemen don't do anything, but wave their hands.

And they don't tell the commuters to wait for their rides at the waiting sheds.

On the other side of Commonwealth, the MMDA has erected its standard concrete-and-steel fence to prevent vehicles from stopping at the corner where commuters are in the habit of waiting for rides. So the commuters now wait on the outer side of the fence, literally in the middle of the street. And the jeepneys and buses stop there to pick them up, thus blocking the vehicles behind.

There are traffic enforcers here, too. They stand with the commuters in the middle of the street, waving their arms at the vehicles, but they don't tell the commuters to wait for rides at the waiting shed, which is only a few steps away. And they don't arrest the drivers who illegally stop there to load passengers.

Do these traffic enforcers know what they're supposed to do?

On the joys of 'deaning'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, I HAVE SERVED AS law dean at the University of the Philippines, heir to the honored office held by Justices George Malcolm, Jose Espiritu, Vicente Abad Santos, and Irene Cortes, and UP presidents Jorge Bocobo and Vicente Sinco. I became dean at 40 and, by tomorrow, I will end my service.

I plan to go quietly and, in fact, will soon leave for a "residency" at a 17th century lakeside castle in Italy, an arrangement I made a year ago. I have longed for this time of contemplation with a select group of philosophers, artists, and scientists from other countries, by way of inaugurating my newly won freedom as a full-time academic.

As soon as the UP board of regents (BOR) elected Professor Salvador Carlota as my successor, I immediately congratulated my former professor and wished him the same grace that has blessed my deanship. Though all has not been quiet since then, and various versions have been told to the press, I have chosen to remain quiet, preferring to revel in the deanship that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

A law school is both *academic*, meaning, answerable to a community of scholars—and *professional*, meaning, accountable to the bench and bar and its client publics. Too much of the professional, and the law school ends up merely "anointing power with piety," ratifying the world it was supposed to change. Too much of the academic, and the law school abdicates the practical task of training lawyers who will minister to the public.

In this task, I have enjoyed the camaraderie of faculty colleagues and, in particular, the inspiring task of recruiting young lawyers—bar topnotchers, honor graduates, LLMs from learned centers abroad, law firm partners and public interest practitioners—to teach and research with us. Junior faculty were sent for graduate studies at Harvard, Yale, Columbia and NYU—and they returned to teach.

Another fun part of a dean's life is thanking the alumni and benefactors who have given scholarships to help bright needy students achieve their dream of becoming lawyers. They have also renovated Malcolm Hall, showing what can be achieved when private philanthropy joins hands with public initiative. They have funded new prizes for Excellence in Legal Writing and Research, supported the Philippine Law Journal (the oldest student-run law journal in the country), and sent more students to international moot courts abroad. The training of students must be well-rounded because the classroom fosters only a limited range of lawyerly skills.

It was truly heartwarming to see students serving public interest internships in human rights, children's and women's rights, indigenous peoples' rights and environmental law. The OFW Desk of our Legal Aid office helps soften the social costs of migrant labor. Our wonderful student volunteers have assisted the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bantay Katarungan, and our trial courts. Sometimes I wonder how long they can sustain their idealism in this harsh and cutthroat world.

Finally, I relished newfangled programs on topics as diverse as blogging, estate planning, e-commerce and gated communities.

These delights are sometimes offset by the controversy that comes with the territory, i.e., the nexus between law and politics. While I have politely declined requests for interviews on the selection of the law dean, I now feel obliged to clarify some misconceptions.

Having completed two terms, I stood for a third term after 46 of my colleagues signed a petition of support. Following a consultation process, UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio S. Cao selected me out of four nominees, citing—modesty aside—what a 2002 independent evaluation called "a renaissance for the law school." He sent the recommendation to the UP president, who forwarded it to the BOR. It was, however, at this stage that the BOR dropped my name from the voting, citing their prerogative to reinterpret the rules. The settled rule allowed a third term under exceptional conditions which, Chancellor Cao urged in his recommendation, I had fully satisfied. I am truly gratified that the academic authorities who actually know my work have validated my six years of service.

Sympathetic friends have asked: Might things have been different had I not issued a legal opinion at the joint hearings of Congress, saying that the Gloriagate tapes were admissible unless Gloria herself objected to the unconsented bugging and admitted it was she on the tapes; or if the Law Faculty had not adopted a resolution calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign; or if the UP Law Center had not rendered a legal opinion finding the Northrail contract to be a fraud on the public coffers?

One would have to be totally naïve to think that any institution today can remain sacred against the importunings of power, but I have no regrets whatsoever. I wouldn't have it any other way. That is the joy of speaking one's conscience—to "not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my path."

The law school is the bastion of reasoned debate. You may think that democracy is only about people choosing outcomes, rather than choosing values. Yet law is all about value choices, and when a UP law professor calls on the President of the Republic to account for conspiratorial talk with an election officer, he merely lives out the gospel that he preaches in the classroom, especially that part that says, "Public office is a public trust."

I have enjoyed the work immensely. I have savored the moment. The Sanskrit says: "Today, well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Visiting 'Amerika'

COMMENTARY

Luis V. Teodoro

THE UNITED STATES IS "AMERICA" TO MOST people. But that word refers to the continent. When applied to the United States, it is better spelled with a "k," as in "swastika."

It's the country most Filipinos want to visit. But if you've ever been involved in any group or activity faintly progressive; if you have relatives or friends who have been there; or you're from a country that its officials say harbors "terrorist groups," you'd be tempting fate to go there. No matter how vague or past your involvement, it could earn you a strip search, an interrogation session with the FBI or immigration, summary deportation, or even indefinite detention.

Retired Philippine Army general Raymundo Jarque and his wife Xenia found this out last week when they landed in Dallas. Singled out for interrogation, the Jarques, both in their 60s, were also denied food while awaiting deportation, and jailed in their underwear. The charge: possible terrorist links because Jarque was a National Democratic Front consultant in the peace talks in the 1990s.

The Jarques went to the United States to visit relatives. Like many Filipinos, they're linked by blood to that country through sons and daughters, cousins and uncles, nieces or nephews who live there.

The United States is not a nice place for nonwhites and dollar-poor people to visit even in the best of times. You don't really want to live there—not if you think there's more to life than McDonald's, a gas-guzzling car, Mickey Mouse prancing around Disneyland, and indulging one's earthly appetites at the cost of one's dignity and self-respect. But I confess: I've visited the United States several times to see relatives, and even briefly lived there during arguably better times.

In 1978, Jimmy Carter was US president. Carter had inherited the US policy—in place since the Johnson administration—of supporting dictatorships. But Amerika tolerated opponents of dictatorship within its borders. Many Filipino exiles opposed to the Marcos regime were there in the late 1970s, and they could lobby Congress, publish anti-dictatorship tracts, and hold public discussions without fear.

But while dissenters were tolerated, the US government continued to support Marcos with economic and military aid. The conflict was between the United States' supposed adherence to democratic rights and the demands of its imperial interests. Those interests the architects of its foreign policy sought to defend and advance at all costs, including mass murder.

Since the Reagan presidency, the contradiction has been resolved in favor of repression at home and naked aggression abroad. The Republican gang of George W. Bush has also savaged due process and other individual rights on the excuse that it's necessary to defeat "international terrorism."

If Nixon bombed Vietnam and Cambodia, and George W. Bush Iraq, the Democrats' Bill Clinton did the same to Sudan and the former Yugoslavia. It's in the policies at home, not abroad, where the Republicans and the Democrats differ. At least at home, minority and immigrant rights, as well as those of visitors, were to some extent respected by Democratic administrations.

US immigration treats every visitor from a poor country as a potential overstaying alien whatever party is in power. But nowadays if you're Asian, or just look different, you're likely to be regarded as a possible terrorist as well. The worst thing is to be a Muslim and/or Arab, which makes Indonesians, Malaysians and some Filipinos, but especially Middle Eastern folk, likely victims of racial profiling at US immigration counters.

There are enough horror stories about the treatment of "terrorists" to fill a hefty volume. This is so because the US Patriot Act permits the summary deportation or indefinite detention of suspected terrorists without the benefit of lawyers and visits by relatives, among other reasons.

But the scramble to visit and live in the United States continues because the poverty rampant in the United States world order (800 million people go to bed hungry daily) drives millions from their countries to look for opportunities abroad—especially in the United States.

And yet poverty is no stranger to millions of US residents. Some 37 million are poor, and millions of US children often go hungry. Amerika is also an extremely violent place, with some 30,000 people shot dead every year, and 65,000 more injured. School shootings by students have been described as "an epidemic." Assaults, rapes and armed robberies are common, with one violent crime for every 47 US residents occurring yearly. Two million people are in US prisons, in the construction of which Amerika excels as it does in war and mayhem.

Racism is as common as grass in the United States, where everything's right if you're white, but everything can be wrong if you're not. And they start them young. Grade school children blithely hurl such racial epithets as "Nigger," "Spic," "Chink," etc. at each other when they quarrel.

It's a habit of thought that stays with them all their lives, whether on the job, in school or on the street—where your being a "Slope" (Asian) or a homosexual can earn you a beating by racist gangs.

"America" isn't in the heart. It's in the colonial mind, "Amerika" being the reality. You don't really want to live there, and visiting it is like visiting Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

Except that today you don't have to be Jewish; you just have to be different.

Luis V. Teodoro is a professor of journalism at the University of the Philippines.

Blocking the rails

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BEIJING—SINCE APRIL, 40 ENGINEERS FROM the China National Machinery and Equipment Group (CNMEG) have been in the Philippines waiting to start work on the North Luzon Railway Project. About 82 percent of the survey phase, including conducting tests on the sub-soil conditions of the route, has been completed, with the remaining 18 percent slated for studies on the depot site, which to date has yet to be determined. The original memorandum of agreement provided that the design phase was to start by the end of 2004, but it is only starting now.

The main cause of delay has been the government's inability to clear the right-of-way for the new railway tracks. To date, some 7,000 "informal settler" families living on the proposed route (Northrail is leasing property from the Philippine National Railways) have been relocated; but about 20,000 more have yet to move. Local governments in the areas to be affected in the first phase (Caloocan, Malabon and Bulacan) have already been given "assistance" from Northrail for the families' compensation and relocation. And indeed, in some communities, families have already received as much as P50,000 each in assistance, but still they remain where they are.

The National Housing Authority, which was tasked with clearing the right-of-way by January, has committed to complete the relocation phase by November this year.

This almost year-long delay in the project has concerned the top leadership of both China and the Philippines. In a meeting with Northrail president Jun Cortes and a group of Filipino journalists who were invited to China by Northrail and CNMEG, Lian Xiang, assistant president of the China Exim Bank, said Chinese premier Hu Jintao had just asked the bank "to report to him on the problems and difficulties in the project." This after President Macapagal-Arroyo brought up the North Railways project with him during their recent talks at the UN summit in New York.

* * *

CLEARLY, there is commitment at the national level of both China and the Philippines to push through with the project. What I gather from the discussions we've had with Exim Bank and CNMEG officials is that the Chinese are getting increasingly frustrated at why, despite this vaunted "political will," the project is meeting so many "rail" blocks, not the least of which is a Senate hearing.

The latest word from Manila is that Malacañang has issued an executive order requiring all officials summoned to attend the Senate hearings, including Northrail officials, to first seek clearance from the Palace before honoring the summons. This promises to set the executive and legislature at headline-grabbing loggerheads. Sadly, all the political flak obscures the real merit of the project and the real benefits it would bring to the people of Northern Luzon.

Northrail is envisioned to provide railroad services from Metro Manila to as far north as La Union, with the first phase covering the Caloocan-to-Malolos route requiring the laying of 32 km of brand-new double tracks (for a total of 64 km of tracks), new long-span rail bridges, and viaducts at major intersections, and new coaches and other rolling stock. There will be six stations or stops and a depot for maintenance and repair. Cortes is confident the rail system will eventually pay for itself. They estimate an average daily passenger volume of almost 165,000 for the first phase, and project this figure to grow to about 363,000 passengers per day in 10 years. As planned, a P10-boarding fee will be charged per passenger, with an additional charge of P1 per kilometer traveled. But Cortes says the profits will not be coming from passenger volume as much as from cargo, for which some companies have already sounded him out.

* * *

THE CHINESE government, we were told, "attaches great importance to the implementation of the project," representing as it does "very friendly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, while "proving beneficial to both Chinese and Filipino people."

Under the agreement, the Chinese government, through the Exim Bank, will provide 95 percent of the $421-million contract price (brought down from the original amount of $594 million), with interest rate of 3 percent, payable in 15 years, with a five-year grace period. Exim Bank will disburse the money directly to CNMEG for work completed, upon the endorsement of the Philippine Department of Finance and Northrail.

The terms of the Northrail project don't seem all that different from other foreign-funded projects, with the funder deciding the contractor and specifying the use of equipment from its own suppliers. If at all, it would seem that China has gone out of its way to grant extremely favorable (to the Philippines) conditions to the project. Other governments that also embarked on similar arrangements with China reportedly are complaining why they weren't granted the same advantages.

This may explain why, in our discussions with CNMEG and Exim Bank officials, I could sense some hurt feelings regarding allegations made in the Philippine press and in the Senate about how CNMEG lacks the "qualifications" to construct the railway; and regarding allegations of "corruption" in the process of securing and implementing the contract. Corruption is not a term taken lightly in China, and with hardly any of the loan amount falling into Filipino hands, the Chinese cannot but feel alluded to.

Of course, every government transaction, even with a friendly government, should be able to withstand scrutiny. But the delays and possible derailment of the Northrail project will hurt not just Chinese feelings and Chinese-Filipino relations, but also our own people, who stand to benefit the most from it.

Trash and treasure

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE PUBLICATIONS WE seldom read today. For example, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) takes the effort to put together a printed annual report that is mailed to all phone or landline subscribers. I wonder how many people actually read or keep this publication after going through the pictures. While I would not read this report today, it could become a contemporary or a primary source for a historian of the future, who would be doing research on telecommunications in the early 21st century. A day-old newspaper with stale news would make good wrappers for some merchandise purchased in a market or could be a handy way to deal with dog poop. But if the newspaper survives two centuries, it might just become valuable for collectors or, at least, for historians desperate for something to write about.

There is permanence to the printed word that is the lifeblood of history and historians. We do not feel all the history around us that is lost almost as soon as it is made. Unless a hard copy is made of texts or e-mail, unless the spoken word is recorded on tape or transcribed on paper, they'd be lost history and any reference to them would be "hearsay" (literally [to] hear [what I] say) by the standards of lawyers and historians.

With all of the above in mind, I often find it difficult to throw away printed matter because I know that, if kept long enough, it could become an antique; one's trash might just turn out to be someone else's treasure.

I probably took after my maternal grandfather who was a pack rat. He never seemed to throw things away and kept his "junk" in neat piles around his home. Once, while watching a TV game show which asked for the oldest phone directory to be brought to the studio, he dug one out of storage and won an inconsequential prize. If memory serves me right, the prize was a can of salty biscuits or a month's supply of rubbing alcohol. When he passed away, he left a task for his heirs: everything had to be sorted out and evaluated. Was an object due for the *basura* or would it be appreciated in another home? Many dusty folders of clippings were uncovered in his cabinets, mostly columns and articles I wrote but never kept. He did not say much. I don't even know if he read me, but it was indeed heartwarming to know he quietly followed my career. Aside from the sentimental souvenirs, his files facilitated the compilation of my columns into books.

Whenever I go through old books and documents, I'm always thankful that someone cared enough to keep them rather than consigning them to the *basura* or the flames. Old books feed this column and that of Bambi Harper. So when I open an old book, caress its binding, smell its pages and admire the pictures, it is always a voyage of discovery.

Going over the "1926 Report" of the American governor-general of the Philippines, I noticed a list of legislative bills vetoed for a number of reasons: lack of funds, defective form of bill, lack of time, etc. When you read the title of the bill and the reason it was vetoed, you wonder whether the same bill in our times would be approved or not. Of course, time has changed, situations have changed, but the nature of political life has not changed much in the past century or so.

For example, there were a number of bills meant to address emergencies. When a storm, flood or earthquake hits a place, politicians today will act swiftly and grab every opportunity to be photographed distributing relief goods or condoling with the bereaved. At seeing such photos, have you ever wondered if there were any follow-up efforts to address the cause of the calamity, or are the acts of mercy merely done for the photo opportunity?

This came to mind when I saw a bill appropriating P100,000 for calamity victims, which was vetoed because it would have allowed the interior secretary to distribute money without the supervision or control of the governor-general. Was the bill vetoed because of an administrative concern, or was the veto a reflection of a rivalry as to who should get the *pogi* points?

To get around the veto, another bill was proposed for a calamity fund to be distributed by the governor-general, the president of the Senate and speaker of the House. This was still vetoed on the ground that the Red Cross and the Office of Public Welfare had sufficient funds for the purpose.

I may be over-reading, but there is much that can be read between the lines here. What is the subtext to all this?

Then, there were matters of simple fiscal discipline, like a bill extending the period for the payment of a loan granted Sorsogon. "Vetoed on the ground that it encourages disregard of financial obligations rather than prompt settlement." A bill for the sale of forfeited real property was vetoed on the ground that it encouraged delinquency. It was proposed that taking fish from Abra river be prohibited. Vetoed "based upon the recommendation of the director of science that it is very bad policy to attempt legislation controlling the ipon fisheries before definite information is available regarding the life history of the species." Then as now, there were a number of bills proposing the changing of street names; these were vetoed for practical reasons as it "tends to confuse land titles." Then as now, divorce was proposed; it was vetoed on the ground that it "tends to break down the institution of the family."

Reading the past in the context of the present is always a way to understand why we are in a rut today.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Collectibles

MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD OF "PHILATELY," WHICH means collecting postage stamps. Now what do you think is "fusilately"? That's the British English term for collecting phone cards. As usual, the Americans have their own term, which is "telegery." And Filipinos? Well, there was this unsuccessful attempt by PLDT to popularize the term "fonkie" for a phonecard collector.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

You meet "philatelists" and "fusilatelists" and all kinds of other "telists" at the Greenhills *tiangge* where they have special booths selling collectibles till Oct. 2. The *tiangge* has special themes year-round, sometimes concentrating on plants, other times on appliances, but it's these collectibles that I enjoy most.

Artsy phonecards

Some people will scoff at the stuff as trinkets and baubles, until they find out what their prices are. Who would have known that used phone cards would still be worth anything? One of the dealers told me he'd pay P500 for a used Star Wars phone card, the one denominated at P1,000. Can you imagine that—a card still worth half of its original face value even after it had been used?

There were at least three dealers at the Greenhills *tiangge* buying and selling phonecards. One of them told me the prices are still bound to increase because the companies aren't issuing too many new phonecards now, not with cell phones taking over.

Actually, many of the cards are quite drab. I've written in the past about how unimaginative we can be with our phonecard designs, reflecting our inability to appreciate and tap local culture. There are quite a few cards bearing ads for commercial products, from Magnolia milk to pharmaceuticals. We also get a lot of Walt Disney cartoon characters, plus Winnie the Pooh, and lots of cards featuring basketball players. My dealer friend says values should appreciate for one card featuring Yao Ming.

But there are a few good ones on Philippine wildlife, and some on our tourist spots. The independence centennial (1997-1998) did have some good "artsy" releases from the phone companies. Extelcom had their "Larawan" collection featuring old photographs of Manila scenes (for example, a street in Sampalok around 1865). PLDT had a "Revolution Series" featuring four paintings by Carlos Botong Francisco, as well as a Centennial Paintings Collection, featuring paintings by Juan Luna and Felix Hidalgo. One dealer wanted P300 for the P500-card which featured a Felix Hidalgo painting.

There's even a catalogue of these phone cards, "A Collector's Guide to Philippine Phonecards 1991-2001" written by Marlon L. Panahon, with a foreword from then Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., who apparently collects phonecards! It was from this guide where I learned the terms "telegery" and "fusilately."

Nostalgia

Why this compulsion to collect things like cards? Collecting relates to nostalgia, an attempt to keep something of the present so that later it becomes a memento of the past. Many of the collectibles are small—offering portable nostalgia.

Dealers cash in on this longing for the past. One of the dealers gives out flyers offering to buy, among other things, "Boy Scout items especially 10th World Jamboree," "Elvis and Beatles 78 rpm records," "old Philippine cigarette labels," even "vintage toys (die cast or tin)."

Stamps and coins can go for quite a bundle, but you'd be surprised at what else picks up value—old comic books, for example. Several dealers have old issues of Darna and, easily, one could write an entire book about how Darna has evolved. I hear that Darna has now been transformed into a *colegiala*, as comic book publishers try to capture a new market!

And then there are those old photographs and postcards. I've been using old photographs in some of my courses to show how gender roles change. Men, for example, had no problems posing while holding each other's hands; and women used to pose with a deadpan look because it wasn't modest to smile.

Postcards are also interesting, often produced by non-Filipinos—a fact that tells us a bit about what they want to project about the Philippines and Filipinos. At this *tiangge*, there was one vintage postcard showing several women "de-licing" (removing lice from) each other's hair; it was selling at P400 each.

Everyday life

I'm not really a serious collector. I buy odds and ends, as someone more interested in history. I like browsing through old magazines because there are interesting ads inside. Two or three years back, I bought several "Aguinaldo stamps" issued during our short-lived Republic in 1898. I got them simply because they're a good reminder that the Republic was already in place then, with its own institutions, including a postal service and stamps.

The other week I bought a "Culion coin" because of my interest in the history of medicine. Back in the 1920s, the Philippine government issued special coins for use only in the Culion leper colony in Palawan, because of the mistaken notion that leprosy was very contagious.

I almost feel like a time voyeur with these collectibles, knowing that many of these objects meant something to their previous owners. I wonder about life in Culion. I wonder what the woman in *terno* in an old faded sepia photograph, was thinking about as she stared into the camera.

I particularly like old colored photographs and postcards because they remind us that life in the past wasn't in a black-and-white or sepia world, but also in the same colors that we see today.

Some of the collectibles are almost ridiculously expensive, even quoted in US dollars. When I protest the high prices, the dealers explain that they've actually begun to buy back Filipiniana from the States and Europe. These dealers spend their time surfing Internet sites like e-bay, looking for old stuff from the Philippines. Unfortunately, they explain, our tropical weather and our lack of appreciation of things Filipino have resulted in many of these valuables being destroyed.

Fortunately, there were American and European expatriates who picked up some of these "trinkets" and brought them back home with them. In their more temperate climates, these collectibles survived quite well. Now they're being put up for sale on the Internet, and some are being bought up by Filipinos, who then resell them in the *tiangge*. It's a good thing this is happening, reflecting a growing interest in our own past.

What kind of stuff should we keep that might be valuable later on? I don't know, but "valuable" is relative. I'd just trust my own instincts, keeping stuff that future generations might have some interest in. One dealer told me he was looking for phonecards produced for overseas Filipinos, and again I can see why future generations might be interested, wondering as they look at the card, what life was like for our overseas workers.

More than investments, the collectibles should be mementos, chronicles of the times and of everyday life. Whatever stirs our sentiments now should have a similar effect 50 years from now.

On taking faith seriously

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS ALways been blamed for the poverty in the world. While it is true that the Church emphasizes the salvation of souls, it does not dismiss the issue of development in the temporal domain. For example, Pope Paul VI wrote in his encyclical "Populorum Progressio" about the importance of the development of peoples, which consists not only of things spiritual but also material. He noted that there could be no true spiritual development without the body first meeting its needs.

The Catholic social teaching on progress covers both the spiritual and material needs of all human beings. The Church's teaching on holiness—which is expressed in Jesus' words, "Be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy"—does not only speak of matters spiritual. Holiness is not achieved by the soul alone but by the human person composed of body and soul.

Hence, the holiness that is referred to in the Word of God speaks about fulfilling not only acts of piety but also acts of compassion; and about learning to work for social justice. Piety that stays within the walls of a church building is no piety at all. I think the purpose of piety is to condition ourselves to look heavenward, which is altruistic rather than egocentric.

The injustices of the world, and especially those in our country, are brought about by a very self-centered orientation of people. Government officials, for example, who want to cling to power or to grab power, only think of themselves and their welfare.

Holy people are those exemplified by the Church's saints, who denied themselves of gain and wealth just to put the interests of other people, especially the poor, first. I think the problem with most members of the Catholic Church is that only a few take their faith seriously.

Taking it seriously means growing in knowledge and understanding of it, and faithfully following it especially its social dimension. A person who has so many devotions but who neglects the needs of others is far from a true devotee; he is only sanctimoniously pious.

What happens in a society is no fault of the Church. The Church has done its part to teach and make Christians of people.

The problem lies in the fact that people do not listen well. They rather choose to live a life which is different from what the Church teaches. This attitude was epitomized by the Pharisees (in the Gospel) who preferred the "Torah" over the needs of others. They whom Christ called hypocrites!

—**JESUS NICODEMUS LARIOSA,**
s4087665@student.uq.edu.au

LETTERS

Floods add to travel costs

THE NEWS "PNCC PLANS P20M flood control project in SLEX" (PDI, 9/20/05) is very much welcome. That part of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) has been flooded in the past but nothing was done about the problem.

Now that fuel prices are skyrocketing, the costs that flooding exacts on motorists (in terms of wasted fuel) and on the economy (in terms of workers who fail to report for work) have also increased.

I salute the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) for the move, and I do hope that the SLEX will be more efficient and of better service to us all.

—**EDUARDO MARCELO,**
pilgrim_doods@yahoo.com

Second chance for children

WE, OF THE COUNcil for the Welfare of Children (CWC), are disheartened by the negative attention the Philippines recently got because of the CNN report on children in conflict with the law (CICL).

This is an issue that has remained unaddressed for a long time although there is Presidential Decree 603 (1974) which stipulates that local governments should assign separate detention centers for young offenders waiting for their cases to be heard in court. But most local government units say they do not have funds for this purpose. Thus, the CICL are often placed in jails together with adults.

In some cases, children are in a "lock-up situation" (jailed even though no cases have been filed against them). In such instances, the rights of the children are usually violated and abused.

The CWC, together with the Consuelo Foundation, Unicef and the Juvenile Justice Network-Philippines (JJNP), has been advocating the passage of the bill creating a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System (CJJS). The bill raises the age of criminal liability for children—from 9 to 12 years old; mandates separate detention centers for CICL; and creates a monitoring office on juvenile justice under the Department of Justice, among others.

A CJJS bill was filed in Congress in 1999 but without much success. Today, the strong support it is getting from both the House of Representatives and the Senate makes us hopeful that the bill will be passed before the end of 2005.

The DOJ actually issued a memorandum circular in April 2005 asking all public attorneys to visit jails and look into the conditions of the CICL there. The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) should file motions for the "release on recognizance" (ROR) of all children in a lock-up situation.

We have also been working with the courts to expedite cases of youth offenders, especially motions for ROR—meaning, the CICL could be released to their parents or to appointed guardians who would ensure their good behavior. But the courts can only do so much. There are not enough judges—about a third of this country's courts are without judges. Even with the creation of Family Courts, there are still not enough to manage all cases that deal with violations against children.

The lack of detention centers is not just the problem of the LGUs; the slow action on filing motions for ROR is not just a problem of the DOJ; the lack of attention to CICL cases is not just a problem of the courts, police or social workers. This problem is systemic for which everyone is accountable—from the family that does not supervise the children, to the community that prefers to lock up youth offenders instead of giving them another chance, and the society that is indifferent to their plight.

Perhaps we can stop the finger-pointing and just do what we have to do—starting with the passage of the CJJS and its effective implementation.

—**LINA B. LAIGO,**
executive director,
Council for the
Welfare of Children,
CWC Bldg., 10 Apo St.,
Sta. Mesa Heights,
Quezon City

Bingo picture unfair to Jones residents

THIS IS IN REACTION TO A PUBLISHED PHOTO (showing a group of people playing bingo) with the caption: "The new game in town for the folk in Jones, Isabela, is bingo with the suspension of 'jueteng' operations." (PDI, 8/24/05)

What gave the published photo and caption a negative connotation was the fact that it was placed right below the banner story on jueteng being replaced by bingo combo, giving the impression that the people of Jones have indeed turned into bingo due to the suspension of jueteng operations in our town.

It should have been taken in a positive note—bingo being a wholesome game Filipinos engage in during social occasions—had it not been put right below the headline. According to some Sangguniang Bayan members, the photo was taken during a wake in one barangay of Jones. (Bingo and card games are ordinarily played during wakes.)

It was therefore unfair for the people of Jones to be featured in a national daily in such a bad light. It was a single incident—bingo was being played by a few townsfolk during a wake, and the bets were not even significant. We were unwittingly used just to show that bingo has replaced jueteng.

We, of the Sangguniang Bayan of Jones, therefore, expresses our grave concern not only about the effect of the photo and caption on the morale of the people of Jones but also about the impression they may have created on the readers of the INQUIRER.

—**LETICIA T. SEBASTIAN,**
vice mayor (with 10 Sangguniang Bayan
members co-signing),
Municipality of Jones, Isabela

Unresolved major political controversies

I WISH TO COMMENT ON THE EDITORIAL, specifically that line which said: "In every major political controversy since 1986, there has been no definitive legal resolution to exalt right over wrong. Everything remains clouded by accommodation, delay and inconclusive efforts resulting in unsatisfactory compromises." (PDI, 9/21/05)

While the commentary was insightful, allow me to point out that the lack of definitive legal resolutions of major political controversies actually dates back beyond 1986. The Japanese collaboration issue in World War II and the execution as "traitors" and "bandits" of Filipino freedom fighters who fought for liberty against the American forces at the turn of the century are still gray areas in our history.

In these two instances, right was not exalted either, and we live with the wrong even up to this day.

—**SEN. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN,**
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Labor leader's slay case reaches US

MEMBERS of the Kilusang Mayo Uno hold a press conference on the murder of Fortuna shortly after his killing. JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

CALAMBA CITY—OSCAR WINNER ACTRESS JESsica Lange has signed an open letter condemning the murder of the leader of the striking workers of Nestlé Philippines, the Gabriela International Network (Gain) said on Monday.

In an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER, poet and writer Ninotchka Rosca, Gain spokesperson, said Lange signed the petition condemning the killing of Diosdado "Ka Fort" Fortuna "after delivering a fiery speech against the US invasion and occupation of Iraq at the anti-war mobilization in Washington, DC," on Sept. 24.

She said about 500,000 antiwar activists joined the rally.

Lange won an Oscar trophy for her role as a mentally disturbed wife of a military officer in the 1994 movie "Blue Sky."

She also got an Oscar award as Best Supporting Actress in 1982 for her role in Sydney Pollack's "Tootsie" opposite Dustin Hoffman.

Rosca said the petition was addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Peter Brabeck, chief executive officer of Nestlé's mother company in Switzerland.

Fortuna, president of the Union of Filpro Employees-Drug and Food Alliance, was gunned down by two armed men on board a motorcycle in Barangay Paciano here on Sept. 22.

He was also the chair of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik), the regional arm of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in Southern Tagalog.

"We protest the assassination of Diosdado 'Ka Fort' Fortuna ... He is the second union president at the Nestlé plant in the Philippines to be assassinated," the petition said.

It added: "We call on Mr. Brabeck to resolve the three-year labor dispute at the plant. We call on (Ms Arroyo) to investigate reports that members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the (Philippine) National Police carried out this murder. We call on both to respect human, civil and labor rights—without which there is only barbaric fascism."

Rosca said the signing of the appeal "was somewhat impromptu.

"We were mobilized under the Women's Anti-Imperialist League (Wail) banner for this rally but those of us of Philippine ancestry felt we should also be doing something for Ka Fort, KMU and Anakpawis," Rosca said.

She added: "After all, most Filipino-Americans belong to the working class and some have parents who were migrant workers. So we wrote the open letter and carried it to the anti-war march.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Kin seek probe of death of maid in Singapore

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

PRESIDENT ROXAS, CAPIZ—A 41-year-old domestic helper from Capiz reportedly committed suicide last Saturday by jumping from the 4th floor of the building where she and her male employer lived in Singapore.

But the family of Aline Arguelles-Blanco in Poblacion Campo here, about 45 km from the capital city of Roxas, suspected foul play and asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to help them attain justice for her death.

Yesterday, Aline's body was expected to arrive in Manila from Singapore through Philippine Airlines.

Eulalia Arguelles, 71, could not believe what happened, as she found no reason for her daughter to kill herself.

She pointed out that Aline was a devout Catholic who loved her two daughters, aged 6 and 11. Aline would even call her 11-year-old daughter twice in a month, she added.

The children stay with their grandmother because their father Danilo Blanco, 45, was busy with his work as a mechanic in Capiz Sugar Central here.

The family learned about Aline's death last Sunday when Susan Arguelles, the victim's older sister based in Manila, received a call from Linda Penecilla-Ayala, also a domestic helper and a friend of Aline in Singapore.

Ayala told Susan that Aline's employer, only identified as Mr. Tey, reported to the Philippine Consulate in Singapore that Aline jumped off from the fourth floor of the building at Block 611; Jurong West Street, 611, 06-516 Singapore.

Ayala's employer and Tey are brothers, said Leah Arguelles-Morales, Aline's first cousin.

Ayala, a native of Sara town in Iloilo, was the one who invited Aline to work in Singapore in 2000. Aline worked on a two-year contract. She went home and then later returned to the Lion City to work for another two years.

She went home early last year. On June 4, 2004, Ayala recruited her again through Bomtown agency based in Singapore.

In a long distance call in Singapore through the effort of President Roxas Mayor Raymund Locsin, Ayala told Leah on Tuesday that Aline was cleaning the window while Tey was watching TV when Tey claimed he saw Aline jump off.

Aline was immediately brought to the hospital but died upon arrival. Tey informed the Philippine Consulate in Singapore what happened.

But Eduard Arguelles, Aline's cousin, said that on Sept. 14, he received a text message from Aline where she said she wanted to go home and find another job.

Aline informed him that Tey would take her out at night for bar hopping. She also told her cousin that her employer was always drunk each time he went home. Tey, single, was a teacher in Singapore.

Susan was to fetch her sister's remains at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Wednesday. Her body would be airlifted to Capiz via PAL today.

Taiwanese exec seized, ransom sought, say cops

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A Taiwanese executive of a Cavite-based semiconductor company was kidnapped along the national road in Carmona, Cavite on Wednesday, a police report said yesterday.

The report said Kevin Tsai, chief executive officer of Taifini Copper and Conductor Inc., was taken by unidentified armed men along Governor's Drive in Barangay Bangkal at around 10 a.m.

The report said Tsai was on his way to his office in Barangay Maguyam, Silang town on board his Nissan Cefiro (VBL 597) when the unidentified armed men took him.

The report added that the victim failed to show up at his office "and (could have been) abducted somewhere in Carmona or General Mariano Alvarez town."

Police found the victim's car abandoned in the parking lot of a food chain in General Mariano Alvarez.

A ranking police official, who asked not to be identified, said Tsai was abducted by a kidnap-for-ransom group.

He said the suspects have already contacted the relatives of the victim and asked for a hefty sum as ransom.

The official said agents of the Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency Response have taken over the investigation of the case.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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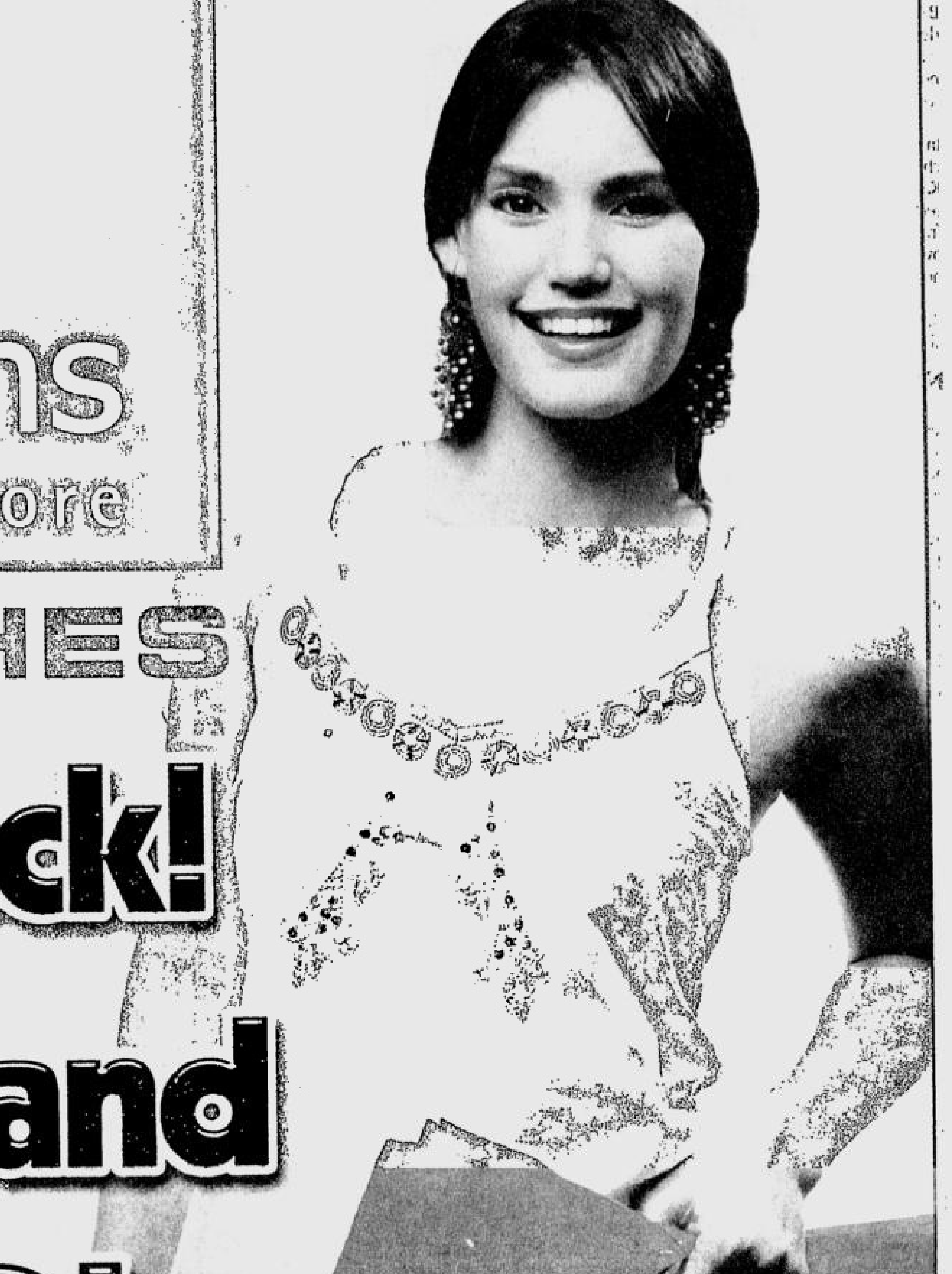

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JDV debt-for-equity proposal draws flak

BAGUIO CITY—SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA'S debt-for-equity proposal has drawn flak from various groups, that said the measure would expose the country to more exploitation from its foreign creditors.

In a statement, Sixto Roxas, a member of Sustainability Watch (Suswatch) Philippines and chair of the environmentalist group Maximo T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development, said reducing foreign debt by conversion either to infrastructure or environmental projects or into ownership of land and natural resources "makes no economic sense for developing countries."

Last week, former national treasurer Leonor Briones said the government should be cautious about De Venecia's debt-for-equity proposal.

Nothing new

Briones, during a media forum at the Angeles University Foundation in Pampanga last week, said the debt-for-equity swaps were not new and these were tried during the global crisis of the 1980s.

Its concept, she said, was "very, very attractive" since the prospects of reducing your debt servicing obligations is at 50 percent.

De Venecia proposed to tie the conversion of half of about $55 billion of the foreign debts of the Philippines to the United National Millennium Development Goal Program. Formulated in 2000, this aims to cut world poverty by half come 2015. The Philippines is one of the signatories to the program.

Briones said De Venecia's proposal needs to be further studied, especially its market-driven feature which needs the consent of two parties—the banks and the government through its corporations.

Not interested

"Banks are not necessarily interested in acquiring property. They say there is no expense on their part. Of course, there is. They will get the interest for the debt servicing. They want inflow. This one's not based on pity," she said.

Citing the experience of the debt swaps in the 1980s, she expected the current proposal to have "minimal effect on reducing the debts or even the debt servicing" given the hugeness of the amount involved.

In a recent forum here, Jesus Vicente Garganera, a member of Suswatch, said De Venecia's proposal poses a great danger to the country's sovereignty.

"The swap would only increase our foreign debt and would not create new resources but only change in accounting books. Foreigners will have more power and control of our natural resources," Garganera said.

Briones, who spoke on the debt crisis during the recently held general assembly of the United Nations in New York, said De Venecia's paper on the proposal was circulated but not put on the agenda. Neither did De Venecia speak before the assembly, she said.

Another forum

"We are told [De Venecia] is bringing the campaign to the Paris Club," she said, referring to the group of private debtors based in France.

"Let's see what will happen because it has to be on a case-to-case basis. You have to match your offered equity and debt with the offered corporation. This is a market-oriented solution. And [De Venecia] is very clear about it that it's market-oriented," Briones, the lead convenor of the Social Watch Philippines, said.

"We might fall into this trap that the dark night of the debt crisis is over and the dawn is already coming and we might be deluded into thinking that this is the solution," she said.

Briones said the debt crisis could be solved by increasing revenues through taxes not imposed on the poor, by strengthening the cash management at the national level, selected expenditure cuts and debt management.

Interest payments ate up a steadily increasing chunk of the national budget, from 18.17 percent in 1999 to 33.24 percent this year, she said, citing audit reports. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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FROM THE MAKERS OF SUNNY VILLAS

ROUNDUP

Security through text

CITY OF CALAPAN—The city government's program "Say Mo, Text Mo" was launched on Sept. 20 here after the signing of a memorandum of agreement with Globe and Smart Telecommunications. Nelson Aboboto, chair of the City Public Safety Department, said reports on peace and order would be accommodated with confidentiality in the said program. Coordinated by the newly put up Public Assistance and Response Center, the text message follows the format CALAPAN <MESSAGE> and for sending to 2937 for Globe subscribers or 700773 for Smart subscribers. The program also provides information on services and events for locals and tourists. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bio-organic farm

CITY OF CALAPAN—The bio-organic fertilizer plant in Barangay Canubing here was inaugurated on Sept. 16. Initiated by the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan (AVC), the plant was launched by the Samahan sa Likas Kayang Pagsasaka (Salika) under the sustainable agriculture and ecology program of the Diocesan Commission on Service (DCS), according to Pol Sevilla, AVC-DCS staff member. City Mayor Carlos Brucal has pledged his support and shared his positive experiences in organic farming when he was still a full time farmer. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hijackers charged

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Tuesday formally filed robbery-in-band charges against six suspected hijackers caught last Sunday in Marilao, Bulacan. CIDG-Calabarzon director Supt. Gil Blando Lebin said they filed hijacking charges against suspected gang leader Cristino Abainza, his brother Adari, Nomar Lacsa, Alvin Lizarda, Lawrence Sy and Darius Sara at the prosecutor's office in Biñan, Laguna. The six allegedly belong to the Ngani Group, a splinter group of the Bicol Connection, another criminal gang. Lebin said they were calling on freight forwarders and trucking companies, which might have been victimized by the group, to coordinate with the PNP office at this camp to file necessary charges against the suspects. However, the case against the suspects is a bailable offense, he admitted. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

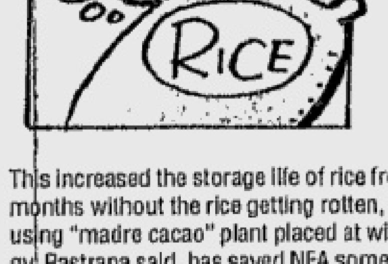
Escapee recaptured

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The last of the four escapees from the San Jose, Batangas jail, who allegedly masterminded the escape, was recaptured by police over the weekend. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said Edwin Mazo, 23, who is facing rape charges, was arrested by Batangas police in the Port of Iloilo minutes after he disembarked from Superferry 19 at about 5:15 p.m. on Saturday. Verzosa said Mazo's arrest came hours after Ariel Macalipay, his brother Danny and brother-in-law Sandy Placios were arrested in Novaliches, Quezon City. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

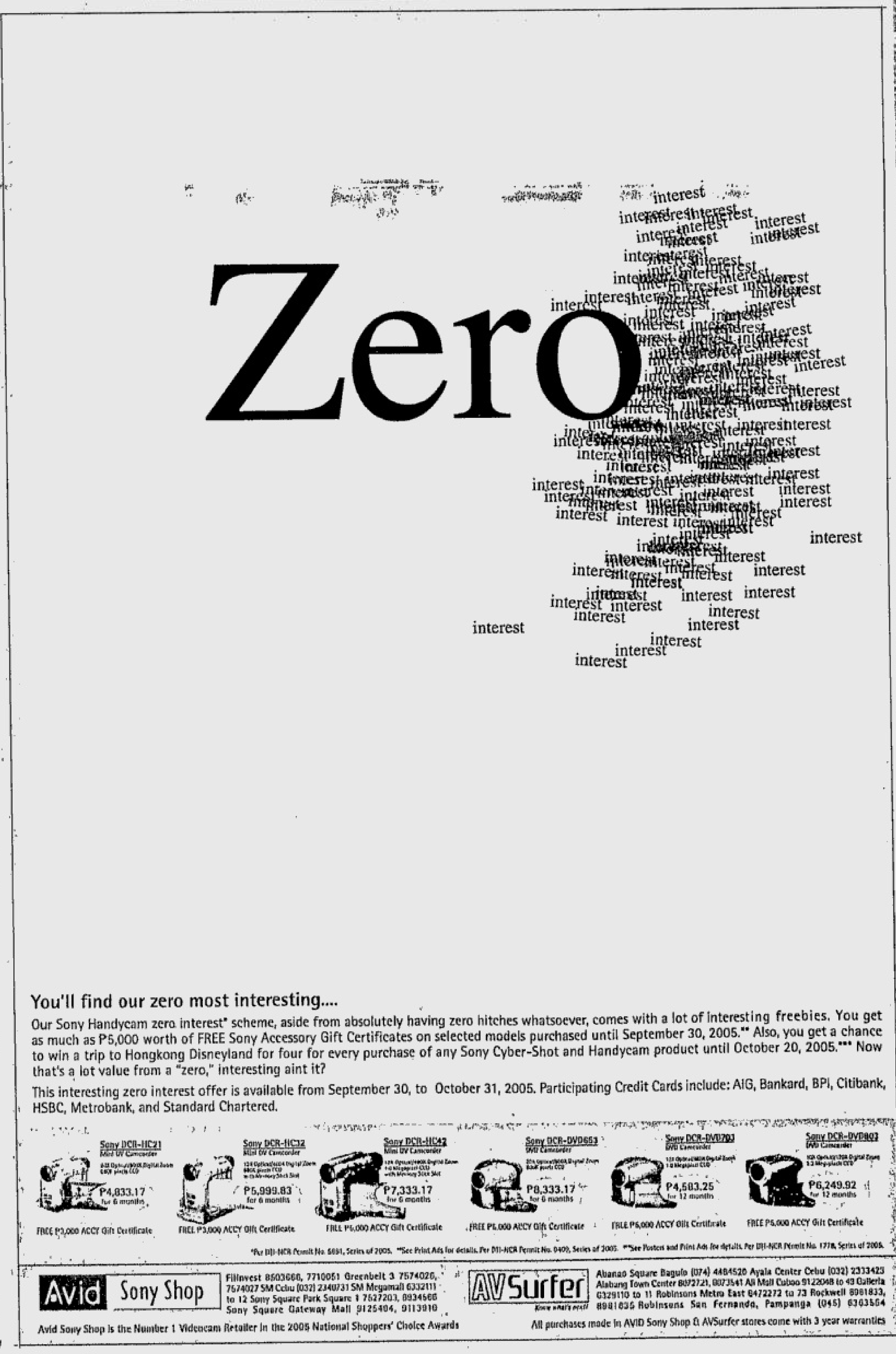
Van robbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Six unidentified men robbed a Besta passenger van at Barangay Bayasong in Pilar, Sorsogon on its way to Legazpi City on Wednesday afternoon. Supt. Jose Capinpin, chief of police of Daraga town where the victims reported the robbery, said that aside from the van, the robbers also took at least P20,000 in cash from its three passengers who were all employees of the Caceres Integrated Transport. Capinpin identified a certain SPO3 "Bondoc" as the owner of the van, whose driver, Samuel de Guzman, mysteriously disappeared. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NFA rice storage



LEGAZPI CITY—The National Food Authority office in Bicol has come up with a technique that could preserve the original good condition of rice in storage even up to eight months. NFA Bicol director Danilo Pastrana said they have now some 120,000 bags of rice distributed in 10 grains storage centers all over the region. These rice stocks are tightly covered with canvas that is cast on the floor. This increased the storage life of rice from the original six months to eight months without the rice getting rotten, he said. The regional office is now also using "madre cacao" plant placed at windows to ward off insects. This strategy, Pastrana said, has saved NFA some P200,000 in terms of insecticide application. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Cabinet men's absence derails Northrail probe

From page A1

into the hearing, he received text messages that his office, where he kept the original copies of the Northrail project documents, had been padlocked. *(Story on Page A1.)*

UP Law Center

Professors Solomon Lumba, Bartolome Fernandez, Harry Roque Jr. and Merlin Magallona, members of the UP Law Center, and engineer Rene Santiago made up for the absence of government officials, answering most of the senators' questions.

They confirmed their findings that the contract between Northrail and China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. Group (CNMEG) to build the railway may be void because it skirted "competitive public bidding," among other violations.

They also asserted that the loan agreement between the Department of Finance and the Chinese Export-Import Bank to bankroll the project was also "of questionable legality" because this lacked prior approval by the Monetary Board.

In a statement, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago objected to the 32-km railway project because it was overpriced by $26 million, anomalous and heavily subsidized by the government.

Nullify contract

She said the project was anomalous because the feasibility study was conducted by the same implementing group—CNMEG. "Thus, there is conflict of interest,"she said.

Drilon, who commissioned the UP Law Center to conduct the study of the contract, did not rule out the possibility that the Senate would petition the court to nullify the contract.

"The option on the part of the Senate, which is also available to any taxpayer, is to go to court and have the contract nullified which, by the way, is the recommendation of the UP Law Center," he said.

The Senate convened into a committee of the whole after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile delivered a privilege speech in February, raising questions about the contract's onerous provisions and seeking an inquiry.

At the hearing in the Senate session hall, Gonzales casually told senators that he decided to appear before the Senate because he thought he was not covered by EO 464.

When reminded by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon that he might end up in jail for appearing before the Senate, he said: "Your honor, my presence here is only to ask for a copy of that opinion of the UP Law Center."

Executive Agreement?

Gonzales, however, ended up being grilled on the Nov. 13, 2003, opinion issued by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, declaring valid the designation of CNMEG as prime contractor.

He fumbled when asked if the loan agreement between the DOF and China's Eximbank could be classified as an executive agreement. He argued that as long as this complied with Section 20, Article 7 of the Constitution, this could be considered an executive agreement.

He later admitted that the OGCC did not review the loan agreement since DOF was not among its clients.

In an earlier PowerPoint presentation on the UP Law Center's findings, Lumba said the contract designating CNMEG as prime contractor was void for lack of competitive public bidding, which is required by Republic Act No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

A treaty or an executive agreement is exempt from bidding under RA 9184, but the railway contract could not be considered a treaty or an executive agreement because the signatories, CNMEG and Northrail, were not states but corporations, according to Lumba.

Lumba said the contract "may be void" for lack of a certification of appropriation of funds for the project as required by the Administrative Code of 1987 and the Government Auditing Code.

"In our examination of the contract, we did not find any certification attached to it. So it appears that the contract is void," he said.

Lumba said the Buyers' Credit Loan Agreement (BCLA) with China's Eximbank extending a $400-million loan to the project, and with the Philippine government providing $103 million in counterpart funds, was also "of questionable legality."

The agreement, he pointed out, lacked the prior concurrence of the Monetary Board, as required by the Constitution.

Interestingly, the loan agreement was intertwined with the contract because the Chinese government sought in October 2003 the Philippine government's concurrence on the designation of CNMEG as a contractor, a prerequisite for the execution of the loan agreement, according to Lumba.

"We can consider the contract as really one agreement, and the contract is void, since the BCLA is similarly void," he said.

Downgraded, overpriced

The UP Law Center also found that that CNMEG was not technically qualified to be the project's prime contractor because it "has not done a railway project of similar magnitude in China or anywhere else in the world."

It also found the contract price of $421 million to be on the high side, since the current project is a scaled down version of a 1998 agreement with a Spanish Railway Corp. to operate a $608-million electric-powered railroad running on standard gauge tracks.

In his testimony, Santiago, a former Northrail executive who provided his technical expertise to the UP Law Center's study on the contract, corroborated the center's findings that the contract was overpriced despite having been downgraded.

The task of determining whether the contract was expensive became more difficult in the absence of a bill of quantities, and specifications for the rolling stock such as the trains, he pointed out.

Relocation cost

The old contract with the Spanish group also included the cost of relocating informal settlers from the old route of the Philippine National Railways system, but the present contract with CNMEG does not, Santiago said.

"As alluded to by Senator Biazon, the relocation cost is now P5 billion. In the $503-million project, the relocation cost was excluded. In the $608-million project, the relocation cost was included," he said.

EO 464 locks out gov't lawyer from own office

From page A1

Executive Order No. 464 was on overdrive. The EO issued only on Wednesday prohibits administration, military and police officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the approval of the President.

Gonzales said he did not have the permission of Ms Arroyo to testify on the Northrail project *(Story on page A1)* but he believed he was not covered by the EO.

It turned out, however, that Gonzales' office was merely being "locked"—not padlocked, according to his boss.

Government corporate counsel Agnes Devanadera, confirmed to the INQUIRER that she had ordered the locking of Gonzales' office on the third floor of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on Katipunan Road in Quezon City.

In a phone interview, Devanadera admitted that she instructed administrative officer Leilani Lopez of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) to lock Gonzales' room.

"But that was only to ensure that confidential and sensitive documents are safe inside," she said, adding that the locking was a "normal thing."

Devanadera said her order had nothing to do with EO 464, or Gonzales' appearance before the Senate. It was a routine security measure, she said.

The locking was certainly not meant to bar Gonzales from entering his own room, she said.

"The key's with him," she said.

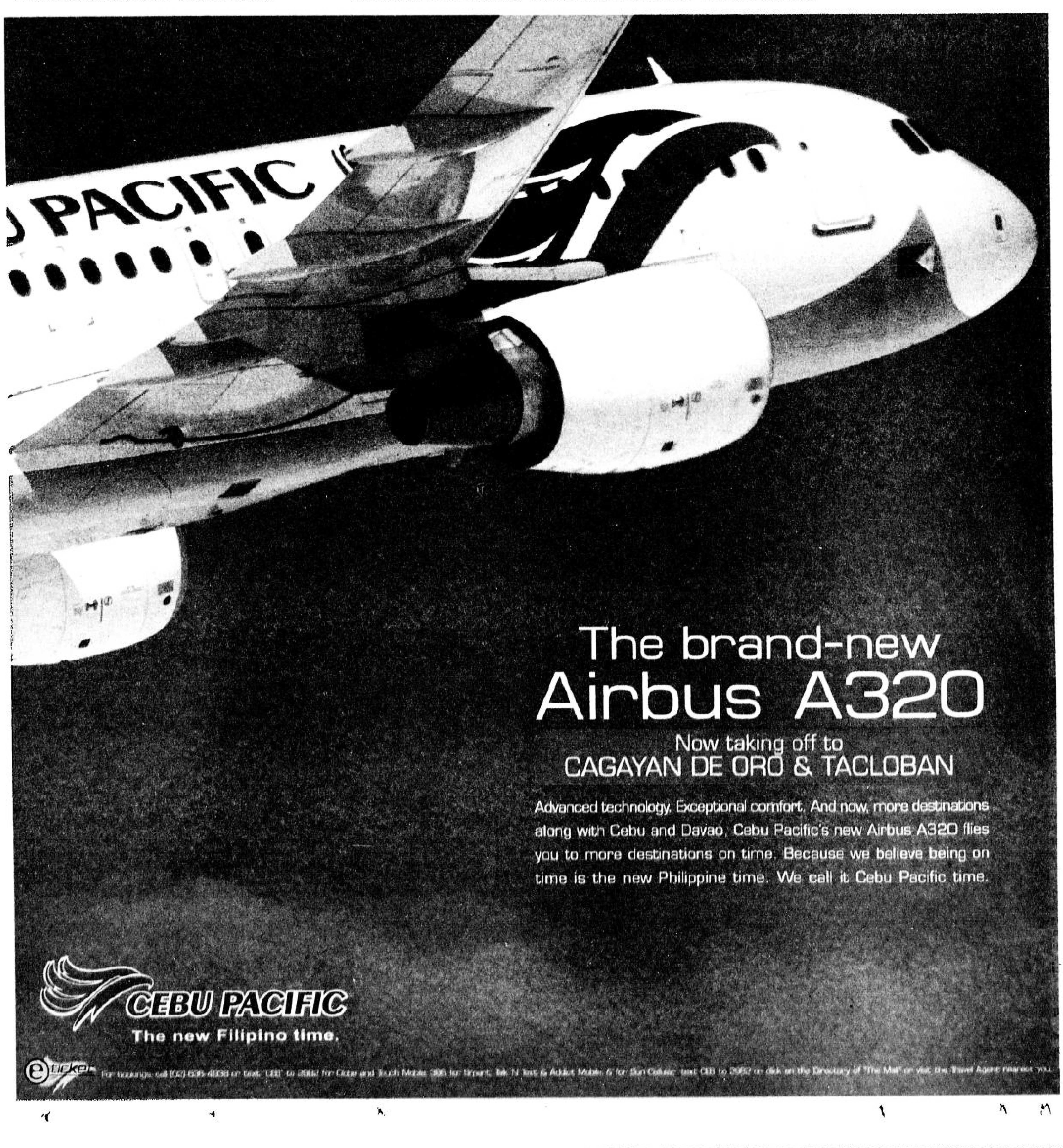
But even before her instruction early yesterday morning, Gonzales' office had already been locked so there was no more need to lock it, she said.

The INQUIRER went to the OGCC offices yesterday and confirmed that Gonzales' office was indeed locked, and not padlocked.

Oddly enough, a staff member who wished not to be named said she received a call from Gonzales asking her to admit that the office had been padlocked for a few minutes but the lock was removed after Gonzales reported it to the senators.

Gonzales purportedly told the staff member it would give a bad impression if his own office denied what he had just said on national television.

The official maintained he was not covered by EO 464.



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'Not a one-woman rule,' but democracy

From page A1

"The revelation of Gudani is not covered by executive privilege. He should reveal it because it's a criminal offense," he said. Gudani, assistant superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, can go to court to question the order relieving him of his post for attending the Senate hearing, Bernas said.

A member of the body that drafted the 1987 Constitution, Bernas also scored the President for disregarding the rule of law in order to protect her Cabinet.

"She is refusing to reveal things, but what she wants to cover, I don't know," said Bernas, who is also an INQUIRER columnist.

Ms Arroyo's order, issued Wednesday, prohibits government, police and military officials from appearing at congressional hearings without her consent. The order outlines procedures for official appearances, including a three-day notice and the prior submission of questionnaires.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said he would challenge the order before the high tribunal.

"Public officials in this country are obliged to cooperate with the lawmaking body so that their problems can be addressed," Pimentel said.

"There is bipartisan support that this EO would not do any good for the relationship between the executive and the legislative," Senate President Franklin Drilon said. "We support the plan of Senator Pimentel to bring this to the Supreme Court."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said that under the Constitution, a Cabinet member needed to get the President's consent only if he would be testifying on his own initiative in the Senate or the House.

Palace can't ignore summons

"But if the testimony is elicited on the request of a chamber, the official has to appear and testify even if the President does not consent," said Santiago, usually a staunch Arroyo ally.

The Senate can cite an official for contempt if he rejects or evades an invitation to testify, she said.

"Under the Constitution, the only power given to the President is to compel that the investigation should not be held at a public hearing but in executive session," Santiago said.

Saying the President had no legislative powers, Santiago said an executive order issued by Ms Arroyo would only have the force of law if it was issued pursuant to a law passed by Congress.

"If the President merely wants to give instructions to her subordinates in the executive department, then she should not issue an EO but an administrative order. But whether EO or AO, a presidential issuance which is not based on a specific statute has no power to bind the Congress," she said.

Fallout embarrassing

Santiago said the EO's wording that the Constitution guaranteed the separation of powers was flat out wrong.

"In pragmatic terms, it is a cannonade against the Senate. Already, it has elicited fallout which at best is embarrassing for the President, and at worst is a total rejection of the President," Santiago said.

Administration Senators Francis Pangilinan, Richard Gordon and Rodolfo Biazon called for a less confrontational approach, proposing a dialogue between the Senate and Malacañang to avoid a constitutional crisis.

"This looks like a cure that is worse than the disease. I propose the holding of a dialogue between the Senate and Malacañang to defuse the growing tension," Pangilinan, the Senate majority leader, said.

"I am certain that Malacañang knows it is futile for it to even try to make the Senate inutile and subservient. The Senate, on the other hand, will never give up its constitutional duty to act as a check and balance to the executive branch," Pangilinan said.

"I am afraid we are in a constitutional confrontation. I hope this won't escalate into a crisis," Biazon said, urging Palace and Senate officials to sit down to discuss a more acceptable rule.

Oppressive orders

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero told reporters in Cebu the United Opposition would fight the order. "We will not definitely take this sitting down."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Ms Arroyo's crackdown on street protests and Wednesday's gag order were indications of insecurity.

Cruz said the President was becoming less credible and people were becoming more suspicious of her actions as a result of the quashing on Sept. 6 of the impeachment complaints against her. He said this left controversies unresolved.

Alienating people

"This is primarily why she is finding it harder to govern," he said in a statement. "This is basically the reason why she gives more oppressive orders. And this is precisely why there are also more dissent and resentment among an increasing number of people."

Fr. Robert Reyes yesterday said the Arroyo administration was "alienating" the people because the President was more concerned about keeping her position.

"We are not moving forward," said the activist priest. "The entire government machinery, all its human, material and financial resources, are constantly mobilized to keep one person in power."

Reyes criticized Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and an Arroyo ally.

"Is there much we can expect from either the government or the Church who both speak the language of the elite, the language of status quo? There seems to be little that the Church can say now because it has chosen to say precisely that—little," he said. *With a report from Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Mike A. had not been to Iligan in 7 years'

THE LAWYER AND SPOKESPERSON OF President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband yesterday said Jose Miguel Arroyo had not set foot in Iligan City in over seven years.

Lawyer Jesus Santos issued the statement to belie the testimony of Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani that Arroyo had flown to Mindanao in a helicopter bringing money to ensure the President's victory last year.

According to Gudani, the helicopter landed "somewhere in Iligan."

"We categorically deny General Gudani's claim that the First Gentleman had operated in Lanao, landing in Iligan on several occasions to distribute some P500 million for the elections," Santos said, adding:

"Attorney Arroyo last visited Iligan over seven years ago. What nonsense is Gudani claiming now in foisting on the Senate a story of a mysterious person he knows who has personal knowledge of his fable?

"This is outright hearsay, and the Senate should not have let itself be used as a forum to attack the First Family with these baseless allegations."

In Iligan, former Mayor Franklin Quijano said he had no knowledge of Arroyo arriving in the city to distribute money during the election period.

"I should have known if he [arrived in] Iligan then," said Quijano, an administration stalwart. *With Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Whodunit? Three gov't lawyers who drafted EO named

From page A1

suffering from delirium," Santiago said. "President Arroyo should follow Shakespeare's advice and kill all her lawyers—or at least fire them."

So, who are these lawyers in a state of "delirium?"

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, a former partner in the influential Villaraza & Angcangco law office, played an active role in drafting the controversial Executive Order No. 464, along with President Macapagal-Arroyo's legal brain trust—Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye disclosed their names yesterday as he dared critics of EO 464 to challenge the legality of the President's right to bar Cabinet secretaries, military officers and government executives from appearing in legislative hearings without her approval.

The senator said "those Palace lawyers should all be criminally charged and held without bail—if there were such a crime as culpable ignorance of the Constitution."

Ms Arroyo has been known to seek Cruz's expertise on major legal matters, including her order to take over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, the creation of the Consultative Commission, and her defense brief in the impeachment case against her.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Palace legal team started drafting the EO last week after the Senate grilled National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales on a controversial contract he had signed with a US lobby firm, Venable LLP.

Under intense questioning during the hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee, Gonzales' blood pressure shot up. Even so, the Senate held the national security adviser in contempt after he refused to answer the questions of the senators. Gonzales was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center and was later advised by his doctors to undergo a coronary bypass operation.

At a news conference, Bunye said Ms Arroyo herself briefed the Cabinet on the ramifications of EO 464.

"After the meeting it was clear to Cabinet members the reason for the EO. It is clear that the decision resides solely in the President whether to allow any Cabinet member to appear in Congress," the press secretary said.

"The Cabinet members believe the EO is legal. If we follow this, we will violate no laws," he added.

Bunye contended the EO was "presumptively valid" unless overturned by the Supreme Court.

According to Malacañang, EO 464 is meant to ensure the observance of the principle of the separation of powers, adherence to the rule on executive privilege, and respect for the rights of public officials appearing in legislative investigations.

Encompassing

The EO states that executive privilege covers all confidential or classified information between the President and public officers, including their conversations and correspondences; military, diplomatic and national security matters; information between inter-government agencies before the conclusion of treaties; discussions in closed-door Cabinet meetings, and matters affecting public order.

Bunye said that EO 464 was based on Memorandum Order No. 112, "Adopting Guidelines on Appearances of Cabinet Members before Congress," which was signed by then Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig.

Bunye claimed that MO 112 had the same contents as EO 464. The executive order, however, appears to be broader and more sweeping in protecting executive privilege.

MO 112 covered only heads of Cabinet departments, while EO 464 covers virtually any official the President does not want to testify in Congress.

Even GMA allies in House oppose Palace order

From page A1

"partisan politics."

"The House sees no valid reason why the President should not consent to the appearance in the House of her department heads and officers..." De Venecia and company said.

"We maintain that the House shall respect the executive department's prerogatives and expect it to equally respect the prerogatives of the House," they added.

The other signatories to the statement were House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the appropriations committee; Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the foreign relations committee; Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Not only ally

At the House plenary session on Wednesday night, not one ally of the President rose to support EO 464.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales delivered a privilege speech denouncing the EO and moved that the chamber immediately "condemn" it for being unconstitutional.

But in the absence of a copy of the order, Rosales acceded to the request of Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar for her and other opposition lawmakers to defer any action until the next session on Monday.

Del Mar, who presided over the session, conceded that the EO was "a matter that affect[ed] the entire [House]," but pointed out that the planned resolution "should reflect [the chamber's] entire sentiment."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that in the absence of formal action by the plenary, the Speaker could write Ms Arroyo expressing the sentiments of the House.

In her interpellation, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said: "Does [EO 464] not constitute obstruction of justice ... by the highest official in the land?"

To which Rosales said: "It would appear so."

'Insult to the House'

Asked about the position of the chamber, Acting Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said he would "not second guess" the matter. He said the leader of the majority should first consult with its members before making a stand.

"But it's an insult to the House," Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said. "It's our duty to stand and defend the dignity of our chamber. This will trigger a constitutional crisis."

Golez said the matter should concern the presiding officer because the EO was "a direct assault on the committee on good government" and would make the committee "inutile."

The committee on good government, which is chaired by Defensor, investigates corruption and malfeasance in the government. Its counterpart in the Senate is the blue ribbon committee.

According to Golez, annotations in the House rules on the privilege hour indicated that "it's only in cases of public interest that a Cabinet member should not be allowed to appear before the House."

"I can't see what public interest will be satisfied [by EO 464], unless the objective is to challenge and assault the integrity and constitutional power of the House," said Golez, who bolted the majority at the height of the inquiry into the "Hello, Garci" scandal.

Slap on Congress

With no one from the majority willing to debate the opposition, Escudero rose and said the EO was "a slap on the face of Congress" and "infringe[d] upon the integrity, power and prerogatives of the House."

"This puts in direct collision the executive with the legislative branch. It will clip the powers of Congress insofar as the oversight function is concerned..." he said.

To mollify the opposition, Del Mar said the points raised on the floor would be "taken into consideration together with the rules of the privilege hour."

Yesterday, Escudero said the opposition was considering the idea of challenging EO 464 before the Supreme Court. But he said he and his colleagues would want to give Ms Arroyo the chance to withdraw the order.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla warned that with EO 464, "anything that had to do with good government, the abuse of executive power and the misapplication or non-enforcement of laws would be affected."

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said the EO was meant to deter potential "whistle-blowers," especially those who would testify about alleged cheating in the May 2004 presidential election.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico urged the President to revoke the EO and sack its authors.

"The President was ill-advised when she issued EO 464. There is absolutely no constitutional basis for it," he said.

'In aid of persecution'

But in a phone interview yesterday, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said EO 464 was aimed at doing away with so many investigations.

House inquiries were being abused, he said, adding that "they should be labeled in aid of persecution."

Pichay said the EO could be justified by precedents, jurisprudence and the Constitution.

He said then President Corazon Aquino had issued a similar directive—Memorandum Order No. 112, signed by then Acting Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. on Sept. 29, 1987.

Per that memo, "the President's consent is required for all such appearances" of heads of departments, Pichay said.

Palace slams Senate hearings; businessmen back EO 464

From page A1

legislation but of destabilization.

A day after Executive Order No. 464 was issued, President Macapagal-Arroyo met with her Cabinet for three and a half hours to discuss the legal justification for her move. She put off a planned spot check on a national agency to see if it was complying with energy saving measures.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Cabinet members agreed that Congressional hearings had "no clear benefit" and often were a waste of time.

Like impeachment

Worse, Bunye said, the reputation of officials testifying ended up being destroyed.

He said that the Senate hearings had become "disguised impeachment proceedings."

"The objectives of the hearings are very clear," Bunye said. "This is not in aid of legislation but in aid of destabilization ... We are now seeing that they're trying to revive the accusations in the impeachment case that was thrown out by the House."

Not declaration of war

Asked if the Palace was declaring war against the Senate in particular, Bunye replied, "We are not starting any war. In reality, they're the ones who started this."

Bunye pointed to what he called the "inhumane" treatment that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales got from the Senate blue ribbon committee last week.

The committee cited Gonzales in contempt for refusing to reply to questions on the contract he had signed with a US law firm, Venable LLP. Critics said Venable's contract to seek funding for a project to amend the Philippine Constitution invited foreign intervention.

The Senate panel has rejected Malacañang's repeated requests, citing the principle of separation of powers, to release Gonzales, who is reported to be suffering from a heart ailment. The 58-year-old Gonzales is confined at the Philippine Heart Center under Senate custody.

Bunye said the people had seen on TV "how the representatives of the people badmouthed" Gonzales and called him a "pimp."

Senate disrespect

"Will you allow this? Is that respect for a coequal branch of government?" he said.

He cited as another example the Senate hearing yesterday on the Northrail project, which he said was included in the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo that was junked in the House on Sept. 6.

Asked about concerns that Malacañang and Congress were heading toward a constitutional crisis, Bunye insisted the legal basis for the order was very clear.

Bunye also criticized the Senate for sitting on 25 urgent bills forwarded to it by the House of Representatives because of its preoccupation with investigations.

"Until now they are sleeping in the Senate," he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the Senate hearings were intended not only to "embarrass the President but to cause her downfall."

"As an institution, the Senate should be respected but some senators, because of their own biases, go overboard and that's best proven in the Gonzales case," he said in a phone interview.

Gonzalez said the President had to do something about the situation "to protect the interest of the executive branch." He stressed that governance would be affected in the long run if this kind of things continued.

"Isn't the public interest not the object here?" he said.

Businessmen support GMA

Also yesterday, two major business groups expressed support for Ms Arroyo's gag order.

"I agree that the President must be able to have control over the actions and statements of her people," said Donald Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Palace recently appointed Dee to the Consultative Commission.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc., said: "Anyone appointed by the President should definitely follow her instruction. They can always resign if he or she no longer abide by the wishes of the President."

But businessmen expect the executive order to widen the rift between Malacañang and Congress and affect the legislature's duty to act as a check and balance to the executive.

Need for modus vivendi

Dee said the President must now manage relations with the Senate more seriously because the senators have been peeved by the EO.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said: "I believe that a modus vivendi must be arrived at between the executive department and Congress because it does not help at all if GMA antagonizes Congress. GMA and Congress need each other to pass needed legislation, budget and revenue measures."

Chua, however, said the President should not be wary of antagonizing Congress because both are "coequals" in the government system.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio disagreed that the EO would lead to a stormy relationship between the President and Congress because the "executive does not intend to use it to block legislation needed by the country."

He also expressed confidence that in spite of the EO, "there is sufficient room for cooperation between the two branches under a new arrangement that should guarantee greater respect for each other's role in governance."

PMA cancels tomorrow's honor parade for Gudani

From page A1

he may not be given honor ceremonies. He may retire, but he may not enjoy the benefits and privileges [of a retiring general]."

Damage control

In Manila, the AFP leadership was trying to repair the damage wrought by the relief of Gudani and Balutan.

Senga reportedly called all six unified area commanders on Wednesday afternoon, telling them to pacify officers and men who might sympathize with the two highly regarded Marine officers.

Some junior officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Malacañang should not have tried to prevent military officials from testifying.

They said they felt bad that Gudani and Balutan were being punished for speaking out about alleged irregularities in the May 2004 elections.

"The chief of staff was on the phone [Wednesday] with the area commanders, and he explained what had happened to General Gudani. Then he gave an instruction for the commanders to inform our men regarding the matter," said AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

He said Senga was again talking to other commanders yesterday.

"I do not know his schedule but I believe he is talking to the commanders right now," Pascual said, adding that he did not know if Senga would talk to the Marine Corps.

Pascual expressed confidence that military officers and men would not take action in support of Gudani: "He is a good military general but he committed an offense. Probably there is sympathy, but that's about it."

AFP Provost Marshal Col. Henry Galarpe has reportedly started building a case against Gudani and Balutan.

Senga had said the two would be charged with violation of Article of War 65, or willfully disobeying an order from a superior officer.

Pascual said Gudani's retirement benefits would be withheld pending the resolution of his case.

Hero or heel?

But when Gudani, a member of PMA Class 1973, returns to the academy to collect his personal belongings, he will likely encounter a debate on whether he should be lined up alongside its supposed heels, like retired Gen. Carlos Garcia, the AFP comptroller now being tried for plunder, or its supposed heroes, including former Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Balaoing said that cadets usually aimed for the paths taken by their role models in the PMA, and that he had noticed that most of the cadets today favored signing up with the Marines.

Gudani is a former commander of the 1st Marine Brigade in Marawi City.

But during an assembly that Balaoing convened after Gudani's testimony at the Senate, many cadets appeared to be bothered by the latter's breaking the Marines' unspoken rule of absolute obedience, Balaoing said.

He said it was "very difficult" to label Gudani as a heel or a hero.

"There are two things [for cadets to consider]: As individuals, we respect each other's opinions. But as military officers, will we accept somebody's disobedience of a legal order?" Balaoing said.

Marines united

In a news conference at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda said he had spoken with Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, the Navy flag officer in command, about Gudani's and Balutan's case.

Miranda spoke highly of both Gudani and Balutan, but admitted that the Marines were "definitely" affected by what had happened.

He said he was "in the process of talking" to his men. "I'm not closing my eyes to what happened," he added.

Miranda stressed that the Marines would "remain as one—one for the Constitution and the Filipino people."

He refused to pass judgment on Gudani's and Balutan's decision to defy Malacañang.

Asked if he preferred that the two officers did not testify, he merely said: "If there are regulations, we in the military must follow regulations."

There are about 8,000 Marines in the 117,000-strong AFP.

Distancing act

Gudani's classmates sought to distance themselves from his actions.

In a statement that he read to the INQUIRER on the phone, Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, PNP deputy chief for administration, said: "[The] PMA Class of 1973, of which I am president, states that the sentiments of Gudani on the allegations of massive cheating during the last elections are purely his own and do not, in any way, reflect the sentiments of the [class]."

Calderon said he and his "mistahs" decided to release the statement late yesterday afternoon after consulting one another on the phone.

"We stand firm and strong behind the chain of command and we express our strong support to the President and to the Constitution," he said.

Calderon, however, said this did not mean the class had broken its ties with Gudani: "We remain friends. We sympathize with his plight, but we distance ourselves from his acts."

But in a statement, the Young Officers Union New Generation condemned the relief of Gudani and Balutan.

"We strongly believe that these repressive actions are designed to suppress the truth from reaching the people. We strongly believe that the truth can never be suppressed and will eventually come out," said the group, which now claims membership among PNP officers.

It encouraged the other officers summoned by the Senate to defy EO No. 464 and testify in the "Hello, Garci" investigation. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Norman Bordadora and Luige A. Del Puerto in Manila*

Hyatt 10 lauds Gudani

THE GROUP OF RESIGNED government officials collectively known as the "Hyatt 10" lauded Gudani, saying his "courageous" testimony supported allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated in the 2004 presidential election and strengthened its calls for her to step down.

"We are in solidarity with him because we know he and his family will experience the same kind of harassment we have received from Malacañang," said former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

She added: "We appreciate, recognize and honor his courage to stand up for the truth. Knowing fully well the consequences, he stood for the real meaning of honor and duty to country.

"His testimony was a major corroboration of the Garci tapes and, therefore, a clear basis for the people to call for the President's resignation because she cheated, and no President in any country is allowed to rule if caught cheating."

The INQUIRER had a chance interview with Soliman when she dropped in on an antipoverty conference being conducted in Intramuros, Manila, by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Soliman said it was now "part of Gudani's cross" to expect Ms Arroyo's camp to "destroy his credibility and accuse him of anything, including being an associate of Sen. [Panfilo] Lacson, as if that's a crime."

She also decried Ms Arroyo's EO No. 464 as "a clear sign" that Malacañang was "trying to prevent people from testifying on the truth."

Luisita workers . . .

From page A1

Laza voted "yes" to the proposed stock distribution plan at the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, foregoing his chance of owning the land he had tilled in exchange for his children's future.

For the past 16 years, however, it was Laza, 64, who learned the hardest lesson of all. His family became poorer.

Not one of his 10 kids went beyond second year high school, and his son, Jesus, was one of the seven people killed during the violent dispersal of striking hacienda workers last November.

"It was not true, all of it," was all Laza could say as he and some 300 farmers camped outside the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City Monday to ask the government to cancel the stock development option (SDO) agreement they had approved in two referenda 16 years ago.

The SDO allows landowners, who run their farms as corporations, to distribute shares of stock to their farm workers in lieu of a land transfer.

The Department of Agrarian Reform's special legal team has recommended the revocation of the SDO agreement because of violations by hacienda management.

In a 19-page report submitted to the agrarian reform secretary last week, the team said the SDO agreement between the Cojuangcos and the farm workers failed to improve the lives of the latter and bring about social justice.

Pangandaman's announcement

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman will announce today his decision on the Luisita supervisors' and farmers' petitions seeking the revocation of the SDO and demanding the distribution of the hacienda land.

After stalling early this week, Pangandaman is scheduled to hold a press conference at 11 a.m. to finally declare his position on the terminal report submitted by the DAR's special legal team on the Luisita case.

Pangandaman said he would make his own report based on the findings of Task Force Luisita, which started its investigation of the alleged violations of the SDO agreement in November last year.

Housemaid

"They told us our lives would be better," recalled Benjamin de la Peña, also 64, of Barangay Bantug. He, too, voted for the SDO, but his six children finished only their elementary schooling.

De la Peña's eldest daughter is now working as a maid in Manila. He himself was always a casual worker although he had around 4,000 shares in Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), owner and manager of the 4,915-hectare sugar estate.

"I don't think my grandchildren will have a future better than what my children have now unless the land becomes ours," he said.

With the recommendation of the government team to recall the SDO agreement, the Luisita farm workers, now numbering about 7,000, are hoping for a second shot at owning the estate, which covers an area bigger than Caloocan City.

The task force's report was reviewed by the legal team last month to iron out minor legal issues in the task force's findings and recommendations.

In its terminal report, the legal team acknowledged that the farmers had been "misled" by the HLI into believing that they would benefit much from the SDO.

Sugarcoated assurances

"The sugarcoated assurances were more than enough to make them fall for the SDO as they made (the farmers) feel rich as a "stockholder" ... despite the dirt in their hands and the [clothes in] tatters they use," said the report submitted to Pangandaman's office on Sept. 23.

"(It had) given the feeling of security of tenure in their work when there is none; expectation to receive dividends when the corporation has already suspended operations allegedly due to losses, and a stable sugar production by maintaining the agricultural lands when a substantial portion thereof, almost 1/8 of the total land area, has already been converted to nonagricultural uses," the report further said.

GMA has last say

Pangandaman's decision will be elevated to the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council's executive committee chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has a political rift with former President Cory C. Aquino, one of the six owners of the hacienda.

The committee will review the decision and refer it to the PARC, composed of representatives of landowners, farmers and agencies implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Luisita spokesperson lawyer Vigor Mendoza reiterated the statement of former President Corazon Aquino that the company would abide by whatever decision the government takes "for as long as the farmer beneficiaries would be sincere in carrying out the true intent of the agrarian reform law."

The farm workers are not letting their guard down. "We will not stop fighting until the land is ours," said Felix P. Nacpil, 63, one of only 132 farmers who had voted "no" to the stock distribution plan in 1989.

Fire in his eyes

He has not lost the fire in his eyes, the same passion that defied goons.

"We will not tire of coming here (DAR) because this is for our family. That land is the only thing I can leave my grandchildren," he said.

The United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu) urged the government to issue a final order revoking the SDO agreement.

Ulwu president Rene Galang asked the government to put a stop to land conversion at the hacienda and to compel the Luisita management to distribute the land.

Voluntary offer to sell

Of the estate's 4,915 hectares, 500 ha were converted in 1998 for the use of the Luisita Industrial Park II and 77 ha were recently sold to the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

If the property was parceled out, Alfredo Reyes, Tarlac land reform officer, said each of the more than 5,000 beneficiaries would receive between 7,000 and 8,000 square meters.

The Cojuangcos are reportedly considering resorting to the Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS) scheme to get the most out of the hacienda if the Arroyo administration decides to uphold the recommendation of the legal team to revoke the SDO, a DLR source said.

"We learned that the family has been discussing the scheme (VOS) in recent weeks. They want a graceful way out of this issue. They are also concerned about the image of Cory," said the source who was involved in the investigation since last year. *With reports from Jo Martinez-Clemente, Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Waiting game for new Nayong Pilipino

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR TWO YEARS NOW, THE 36-year-old Nayong Pilipino patiently waited for its rebirth on a parcel of land in Parañaque City.

"Until now, we are in limbo," Charito Planas, executive director of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) told the INQUIRER.

After Nayong Pilipino was closed to park visitors in June 2002 following Executive Order 111, the NPF braced for the park's relocation near Aseana and Belle Avenues and Bay Boulevard in the reclamation area close to the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

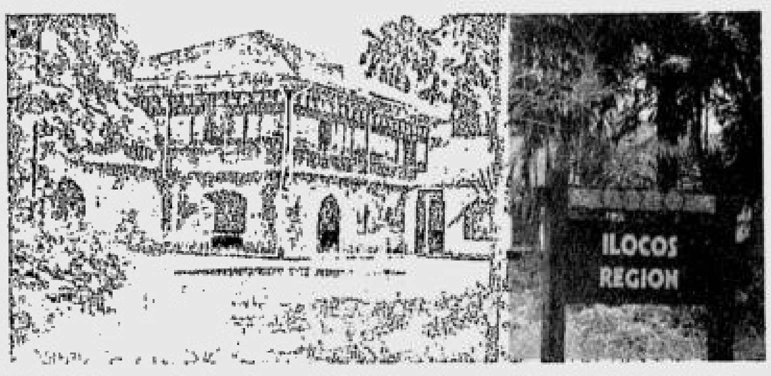
"We held a contest for a new concept and have adopted the winning entry. The structural plan is ready. We have P500 million from the Manila International Airport Authority," Planas said. However, the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Finance has yet to come out, she added.

In 2002, University of Sto. Tomas architecture students Jason Buensalido and Karen Cheung won the "Pagsibol ng mga Dalubhasang Batang Arkitekto" contest on new concepts for the theme park. The contest drew 22 entries from 14 colleges and universities nationwide.

Replicas of Palawan's caves, waterfalls and underground rivers, Taal Volcano, the sugar plantations of Cebu and Negros, and Boracay's white sands complete with coconuts and nipa huts, were just a few in the list of new attractions in the Buensalido and Cheung master plan. While waiting for the MOA, the NPF reopened the park with free admission.

The sprawling 46-hectare park was reduced to 37.4 hectares to make way for the runway expansion project of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 3.

"We were the first to create a theme park in Asia before other countries picked up the concept," said Planas. "The new Nayong Pilipino will be vibrant and interactive, with more attractions."



ONE OF several structures left inside Nayong Pilipino at Naia Road, Pasay City.
ROGER MARGALLO

METROBRIEFS

Wrong choice

CRIME DOES NOT PAY

ROBBERS held up passengers of an FX cab in Marikina City the other night, not knowing that the driver was a policeman. Two of the three robbers were killed when they tried to attack PO3 Mario Palic, assigned at the Cubao Police Station in Quezon City, and owner of the FX that had just come from Cubao and on its way to Cogeo in Antipolo City. Palic plies the route when he is off-duty to earn extra income. At the Marcos Highway, three men armed with knives declared a holdup. After taking the cell phones and wallets from the passengers and P650 from Palic, the robbers immediately got off. But Palic followed them, introduced himself as a policeman and told the men to surrender. As two of the robbers rushed to attack him, Palic fired his gun, hitting two suspects in the chest, said Marikina City Police chief Senior Supt. Manuel Gaerlan.
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Bad meal

"THE FOOD was not ours." This was what Lito Austria, Human Resource and General Affairs Manager of the concessionaire at Convergys Corp. told the INQUIRER a day after 12 employees of the call center were rushed to the Asian Hospital and Medical Center for possible food poisoning. Austria said the meals eaten by the victims came from another food establishment. "We are still checking where the problem came from," Mercado said. But he admitted that a popular catering company had provided a "special dinner" for its employees who were on the night shift on Tuesday. "We are looking at other possible sources," he added. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Not me!

A NURSING instructor of a Quezon City university is in trouble for citing a colleague as a case study for a personality defect. Marchel Mendoza, a clinical instructor at Our Lady of Fatima University College of Nursing in Fairview, has been charged with grave slander for using a fellow teacher as an example to explain a "narcissistic personality disorder" to her students. Alejandro delos Santos, a nursing school clinical instructor accused Mendoza of ridiculing him before her Psychiatric Nursing and Audit class on Sept. 16. According to an affidavit by two of Mendoza's students, the teacher allegedly told her class that Delos Santos "had delusions of grandeur, feelings of being special, and grandiose behavior." INQUIRER tried to reach Mendoza for comment, but the calls were not returned. *DJ Yap*

MAY TOPAK! HIHIHI

New bus scheme on Edsa begins today

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) will start its controlled bus dispatch scheme today.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to attend the launch of the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme at the terminal in Navotas town this morning.

Some 800 Metropolitan Manila buses will be affected initially, MMDA officials said. When fully implemented, the scheme places more than 3,000 buses traversing Edsa under limited dispatch, based on commuter demand.

As planned, the number of trips a bus makes per day will be reduced. At present, a bus averages four trips.

The MMDA estimates the project to cost around P23.4 million, including expenses for the preparation of facilities and components for the scheme. It is expected to save fuel and reduce operating costs.

Buses covered by the initial run ply the route from Navotas to Baclaran, Alabang, FTI (Food Terminal Inc.), Pacita Complex in Laguna, and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

Participating buses were issued OBR tags, proof of legitimate operations. The OBR would cover about 25 routes that traverse Edsa, some ending in Laguna and Bulacan provinces. Besides Navotas, the MMDA established OBR terminals in Alabang, Baclaran, and Novaliches.

Muntinlupa mayor says projects 'aboveboard'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MUNTINLUPA CITY MAYOR Jaime Fresnedi said yesterday his infrastructure projects were all aboveboard.

An exasperated mayor added that complaints and criticisms kept things from being done.

Fresnedi was reacting to questions on the legality of his projects raised by oppositionist Councilor Rene Carl Cayetano involving nine covered courts in Barangays Putatan, Tunasan, Alabang and Cupang, as well as the material recovery facility building and new technical school in Putatan.

Cayetano said earlier he had considered filing graft charges against the mayor for violating a local ordinance requiring him to get the consent of the City Council before entering into an agreement with building contractors. Fresnedi, on the other hand, cited Republic Act 9184, or the E-Procurement Law, which, he said, does not require him to seek the council's permission.

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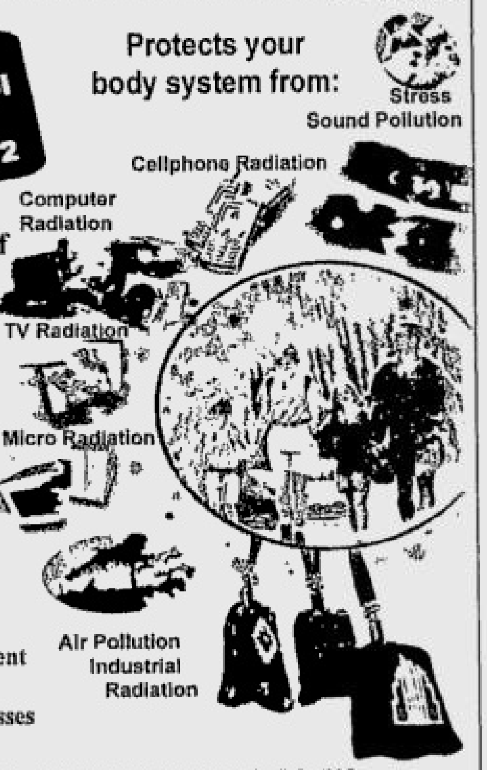

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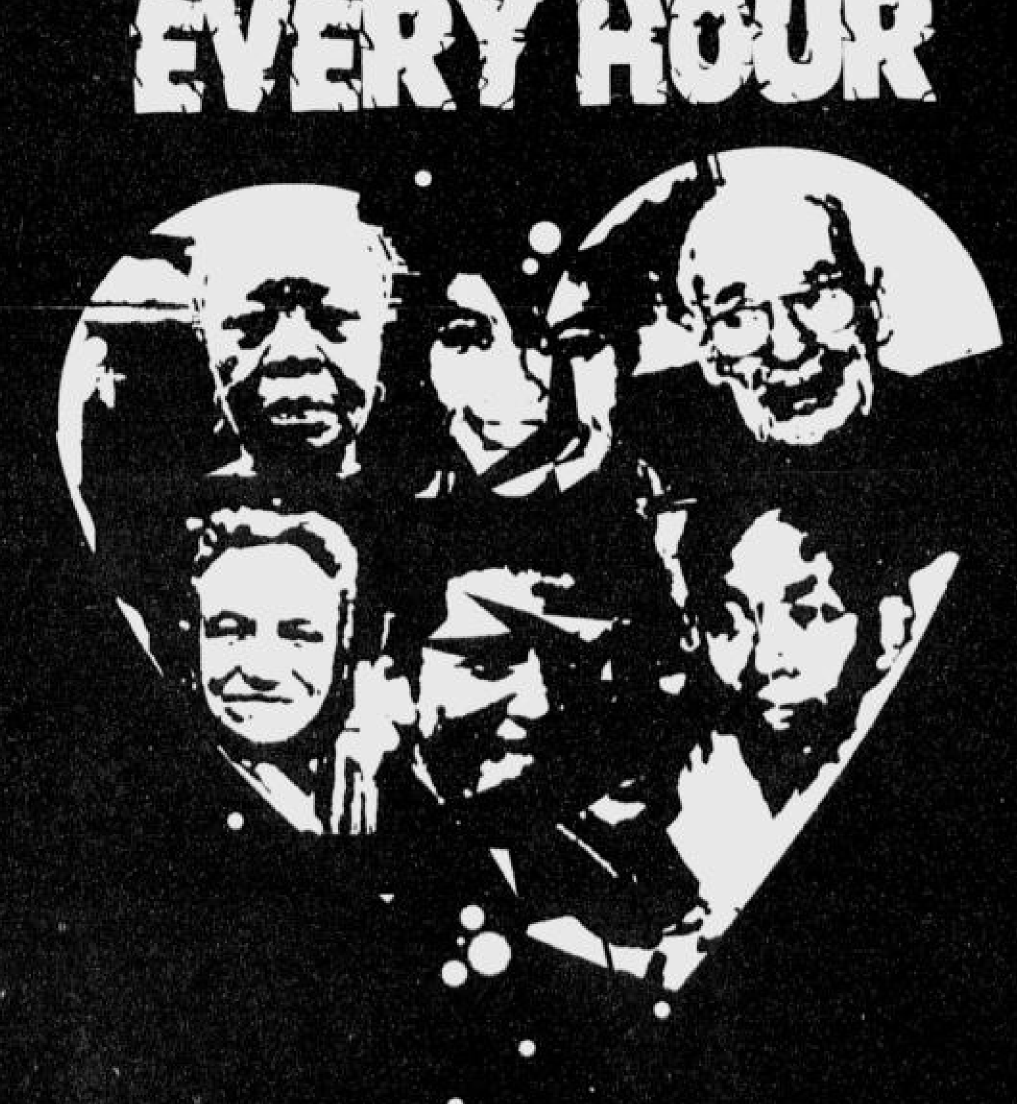

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Figure based on Department of Healtb's Ten Leading Causes of Morbidity (2002) wherein 52,237 Filipinos died of diseases of the heart.

Metro jeeps, buses seek new fare hike next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO JEEPS AND REGULAR BUSES are set to file next week their second fare hike petition this year. The suggested P1.50 (jeepney) and P2 (bus) increase in the minimum fare would help them cope with surging prices of diesel, a lawyer for the transport groups said.

If the move is approved, this would raise the minimum fare of jeepneys to P9 and of regular buses to P10. Jeeps and buses started collecting a P2-fare increase last June 21.

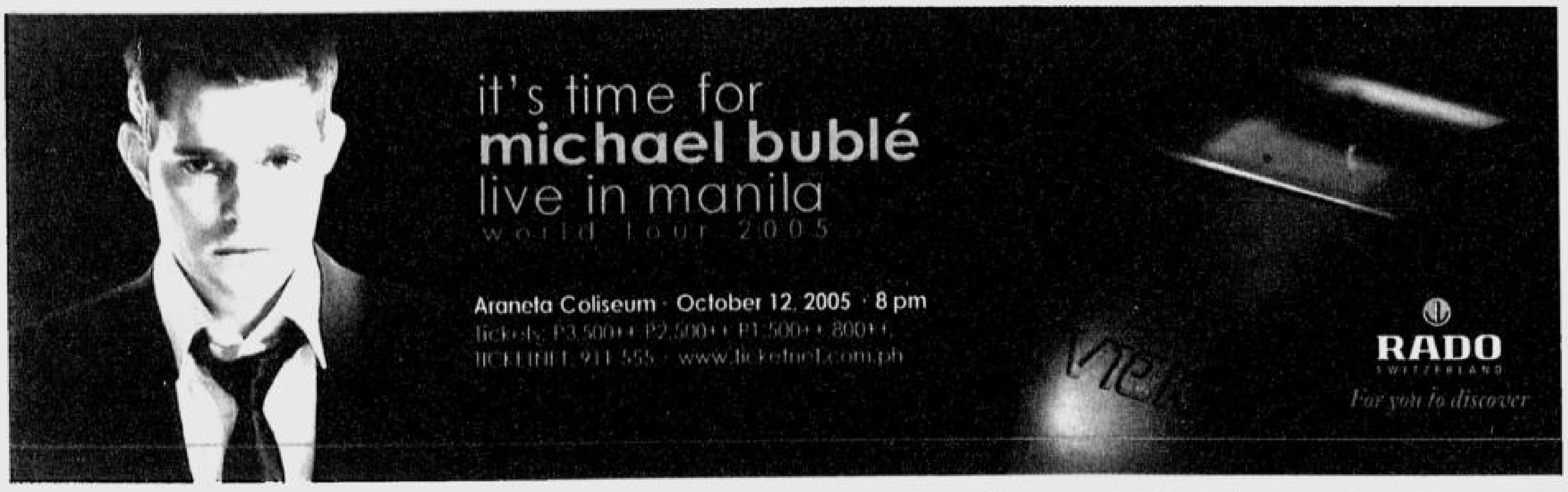
Metro jeeps would ask the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to increase the fare for the first 4 kilometers by P1.50 from the current P7.50. Regular buses want a P2-increase for the first 5 km. from the existing P8 fare, said Vigor Mendoza, lawyer and spokesperson for the transport groups. "We just need to get the opinion of the Visayas and Mindanao transport groups," he added.

Jeeps are unsure whether or not they would ask for an increase in the per-km. fare after the minimum, which is currently pegged at P1.25. Buses, according to Mendoza, would prefer a 25-centavo hike in the per-km. fare from the current P1.75.

Taxis have a pending petition for a P15 increase in fare. Provincial air-conditioned buses have also asked for a 25-centavo per km. increase in fares. Both are seeking their first fare hike petition this year.

Mendoza said drivers were buckling under the pressure of increased costs. The price of diesel had gone up by P6 a liter since public utility vehicles raised their fares in June. From the June price of about P26 a liter, the cost of diesel rose to roughly P32. The energy department had projected a continuous increase in the prices of petroleum products.

Fuel used to eat up only 20 percent of the overhead costs of drivers and operators. Now it accounts for almost 40 percent because of the cost.



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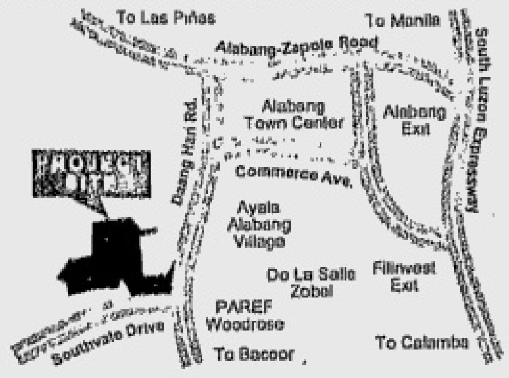

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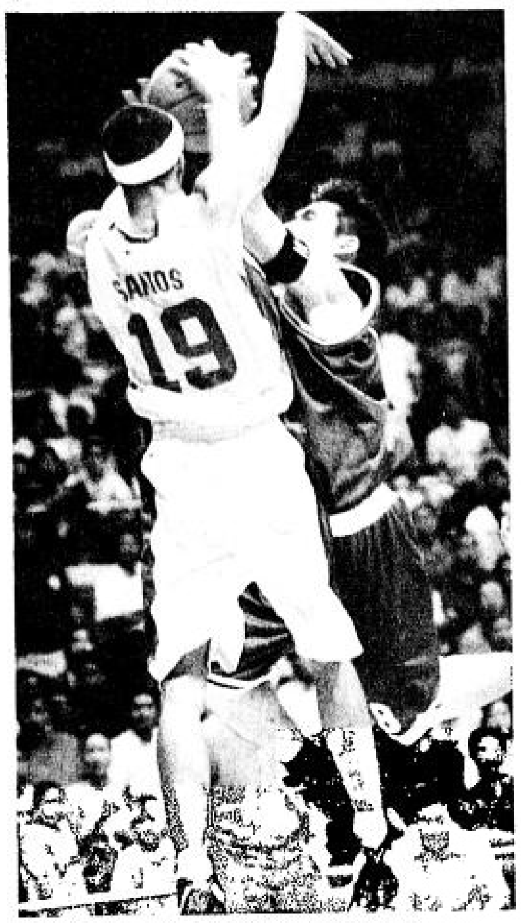

FEU'S King Tamaraw Arwind Santos foils a driving Joseph Yeo of La Salle. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Santos powers FEU Tams

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH ARWIND SANTOS AT HIS DOMINANT BEST, the Far Eastern U Tamaraws proved they're anything but easy to solve.

Coming through in the clutch, Santos nailed a triple, then scored on a putback with 5.5 seconds remaining as the Tamaraws escaped with a 75-73 triumph over the La Salle Archers to claim Game 1 of the UAAP basketball Finals yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Santos finished with 29 points on top of 14 rebounds, two steals and three blocks. His three-point shot with 48.6 seconds left tied the game at 73-all.

"I was just praying in the last minute," said coach Bert Flores after his Morayta crew moved within a win of dethroning the Archers.

"We never gave up."

La Salle had a chance to clinch the game, but a JV Casio triple and a Rico Maierhoffer putback rimmed out in the dying seconds.

The game, though, turned ugly after the buzzer as La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado

SANTOS/ A27

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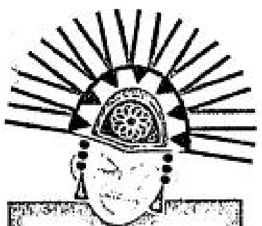

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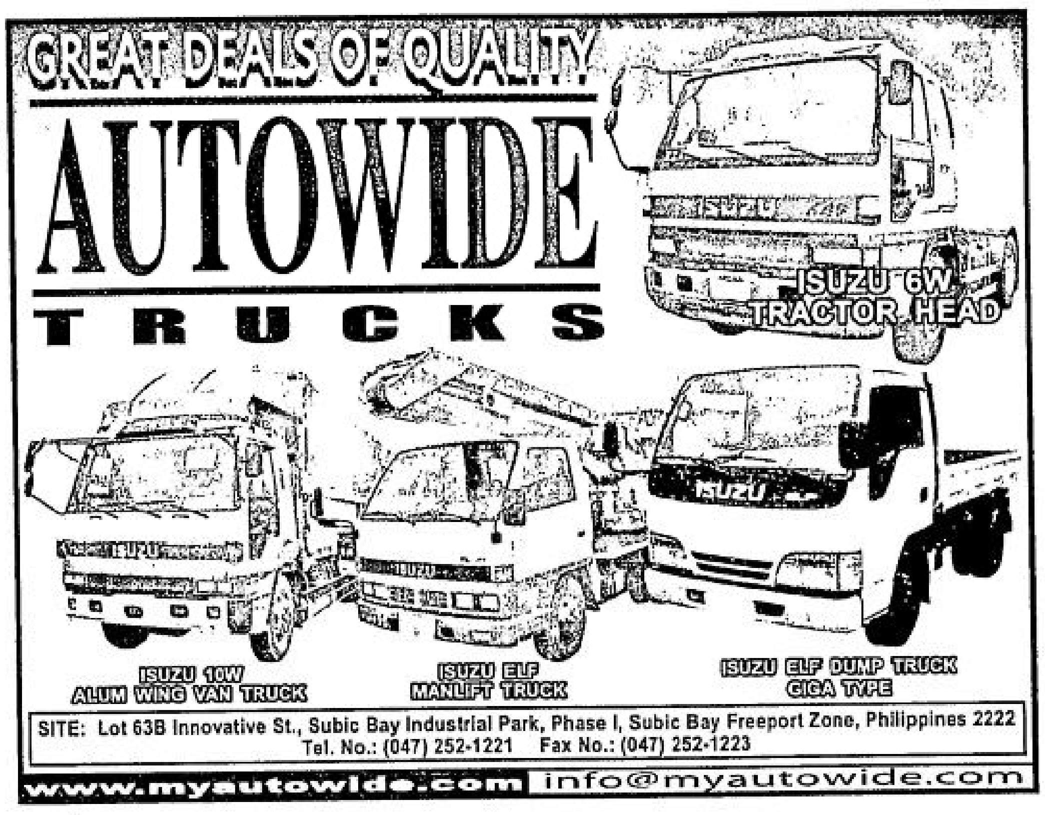

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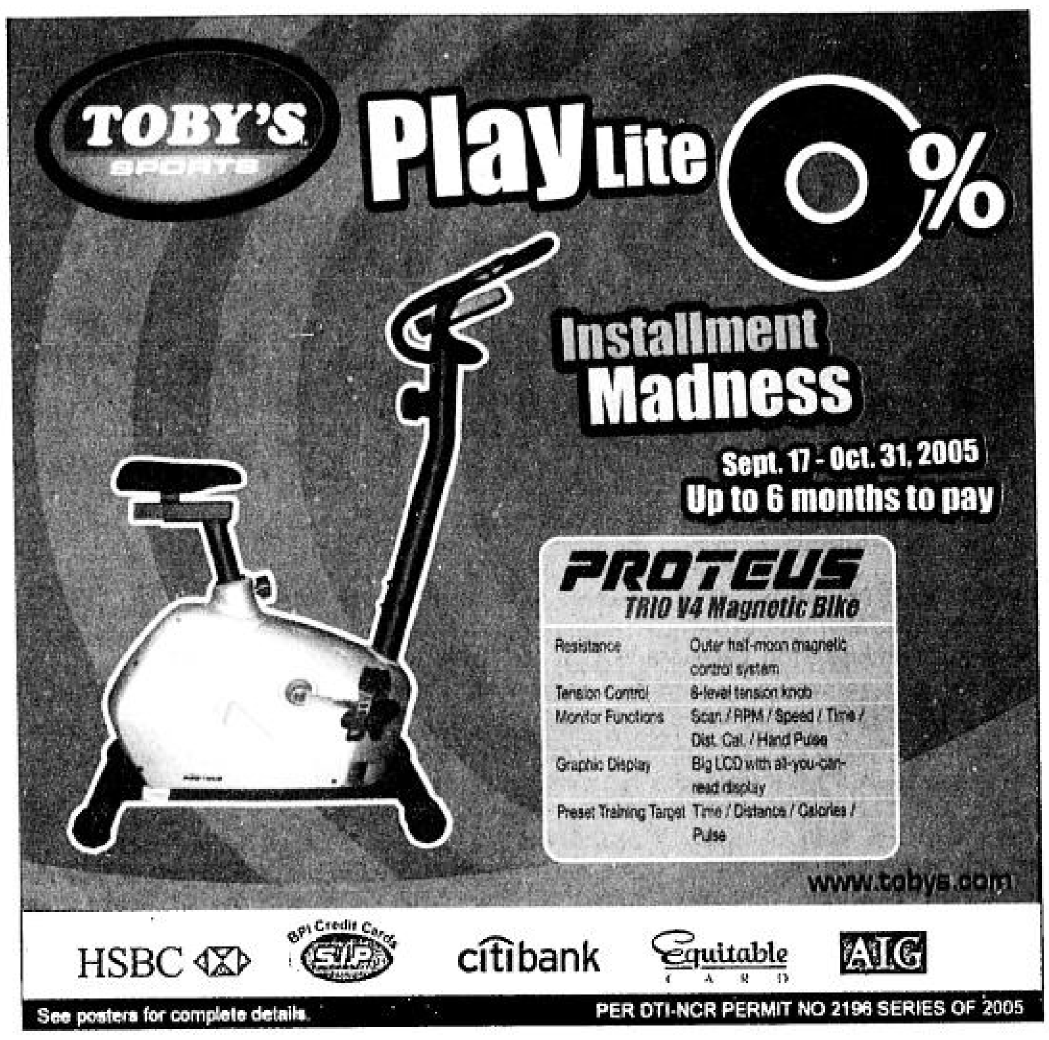

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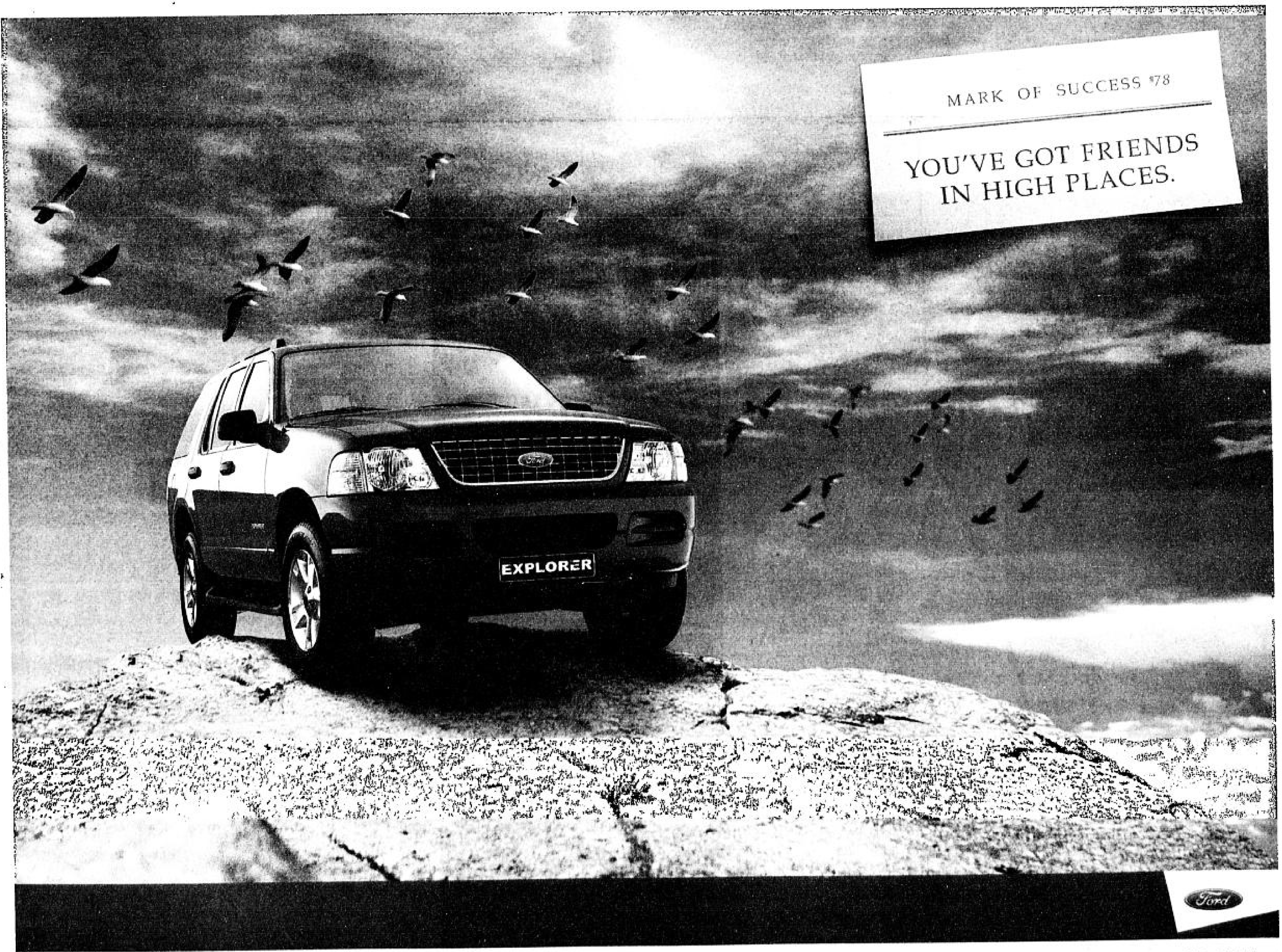

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Red Bull Pennisi eyes return to PBA

By June Navarro

FOR OVER A MONTH NOW, MICK PENNISI has been working out to get into game shape for the Red Bull Barako. Outside the gym, he's working just as hard to regain his eligibility to play.

Pennisi continues to work on his citizenship papers and the Red Bull management is optimistic he would be able to clear his name with the Department of Justice, which ordered him deported as a foreigner last year.

"Mick is in the process of completing his citizenship papers needed for the DOJ to clear him," said Red Bull team owner George Chua.

However, Red Bull is prepared to play without the 6-foot-8 Pennisi. The Barako are banking on Omanzie Rodriguez, former Ateneo Eagles Enrico Villanueva and Paolo Bugia to man the slot.

"I will do whatever I have to do to prove that the accusations against me (as an alien) are false," said Pennisi, who returned recently from Brisbane, Australia, where he secured his papers.

Too bad Davonn Harp, his Red Bull partner who was also deported, didn't show as much dedication to make a comeback. Harp went to Columbus, Ohio, last year with a vow to return and clear his name.

Pagunsan stays alive; Piccio, 13, moves up

By Musong R. Castillo

BACOLOD CITY—ARTEMIO MURAKAMI AND JUVIC PAGUNSAN took contrasting routes to the quarterfinals of the Philippine Amateur golf championship, even as a 13-year-old girl seeing action in the first-ever women's division action grabbed the limelight at the start of match play yesterday.

Murakami booted out two foes over a combined 27 holes while Pagunsan, who has yet to win the event despite his status as the best amateur in the land, went the full route before dispatching Del Monte spearhead Buboy Jaraula, 1-up.

Claiming her share of the limelight was Mia Piccio, a chubby high schooler, who engaged veteran Lina de Guzman in a marathon 21-hole duel before prevailing, 1-up, to earn a semifinal confrontation with top seed Carmelette Villaroman.

MURAKAMI: 2 impressive wins

Second seed Frances Bondad scored a 3-and-2 win over Tracy Locsin and will collide with Lora Roberto in the other semifinal.

The winner in 1999, Murakami hardly worked up a sweat in disposing of Gino Bunyi, 9 and 7, in the opening round before coming back in the afternoon to bundle out former jungolfer Jong Laput, 3 and 2.

Pagunsan was an easy 5-and-4 winner over Malaysian Mohamed Amil but needed all his talent to slip past Jaraula and stay alive in his final crack at the championship before his scheduled pro debut next year.

Defending champion Jun Bernis, a 4-and-3 winner over Louie Dacudao, slugs it out with Pagunsan today, while Murakami tests National Caddies' Open bet Mario Labajo, who won, 2 and 1, over Boyet Saragoza.

Tonlits Asistio, the third seed, fell, 2-1, to Paul Miñoza, who was later eliminated by little-known Ferdinand Aunzo, 1-up.

Local favorite JR Tanpinco took out former Singapore Am winner and fellow national pool member Michael Bibat, 4 and 3, and will be Aunzo's quarterfinal foe.

Gene Bondoc, the men's fifth seed, was another upset victim after taking a 2-and-1 defeat at the hands of Joseph Labajo, Mario's younger brother.

Malaysian No. 2 and fourth seed Siva Chandran also made it to the final 16 by ousting NCO champion Jonel Ababa, 6 and 5. He next plays Joseph Labajo for a final four spot.

Ababa took out Jay Bayron, another former caddies' champion and the third-ranked amateur, 4 and 3, to make the second round, where Siva took care of him with ease.

Siva and Murakami could meet in the semifinals with victories today, while the winner of the Pagunsan-Bernis clash will advance to the final four versus Tanpinco or Aunzo.

Villaroman was a 4 and 3 winner over Samantha Cebrero, while Roberto ousted local favorite and No. 3 seed Anya Tanpinco, 3 and 2.

Snail-paced SEAG promo drive hit

AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES Task Force yesterday lamented the snail-paced promotion campaign for the biennial meet which is just 58 days from its Nov. 27 kickoff.

Former congressman and Philippine Olympic Committee second vice president Harry Angping said the people need to know that it is hosting the regional meet—via advertisements and promotions—as soon as possible.

"It's about time we put up a good public awareness campaign," said Angping, who just came from Bangkok and witnessed Thailand's "impressive preparations" for the 45-nation 1st Asian Indoor Games slated Nov. 12-19.

Angping, who is also head of the POC technical committee, cited the lack of streamers, posters and fliers to drum up interest for the Games.

"Filipinos are so fond of cramming," said Angping. "We always wait for the last minute to do things."

Marc Anthony Reyes

58
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
Globe

What Pacquiao failed to teach Gejon

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ON THE PAL FLIGHT FROM Tokyo to Manila on Monday, Yukka Gejon took a window seat where he tried to figure out what went wrong in his quest for a world boxing crown the night before.

He did follow all of Manny Pacquiao's pre-fight instructions.

Gejon boxed better and visibly won the bout on points.

In fact, the Inquirer had him ahead, 96-94, when the bout at the Yokohama Arena was stopped in the 10th round after he got cut a third time, the result of another headbutt.

So why did he have to suffer his first defeat in 23 fights and return empty-handed?

* * *

Gejon claimed he had trained hardest and longest for his world crown quest.

He checked in at his best for his title fight against world minimumweight champion Yutaka Niida of Japan.

Gejon did his darned best, no doubt about it.

But, then it was not a question of what he was able to carry out during the abbreviated title bout.

It was a question of what he failed to do out there.

They've many names for this ingredient that could've perfected the winning chemistry.

* * *

In the case of Manny Pacquiao, the hotrod weapon could be aptly called fire in the belly.

Or lion's heart.

In Gejon's case, it was too late when he was finally told that he had lacked the necessary aggressiveness in that night of nights.

OK. He was masterful and dominated most of the first six rounds, using his longer arms and sharp jabbing, as had been prescribed by Paquiao.

However, Gejon soft-pedaled once he neared the ascent—the 7th round, to be exact—thereby allowing the outclassed defending champ to bore in and bully him.

* * *

Niida, short and ill-equipped, took round four and went on to win rounds 7, 8 and 9 in the Inquirer scorecard.

Gejon took all the other rounds, thereby edging Niida by two points.

But here's the catch. Although that margin had made Gejon appear the winner, it was not wide enough to wrest the crown from the champ.

Gejon, indeed, had been short-changed.

They have different names for this malpractice: hometown decision, *lutong* Macau, hocus pokus, etc.

* * *

But, whether you like it or not, the dirty trick has become part of the grammar of professional boxing. A visiting challenger cannot hope to win a world title merely by slim margins.

It was just too bad that Manny Pacquiao, who took the trouble of skipping his endless post-victory engagements to personally help in the crown quest, could not detail the necessity of sustained fierceness inside the ring to Gejon.

Pacquiao, a born warrior, must've felt, quite honestly, that this backbone of a boxer's artillery no longer had to be emphasized to someone seeking a world crown.

Of course, it has got to be told again: Other than sharpness and skills, aggressiveness, the so-called fire in the belly, should regularly fuel a true ring warrior.

* * *

Anyway, Pacquiao did find time in Tokyo, where his group had motored from the failed mission in Yokohama, to make a belated explanation.

Gejon, thick tapes over both eyebrows, sat in a sofa at the hotel lobby while Pacquiao detailed with sharp swings of his fabulous fists how he turned the tide and won the world flyweight crown with a devil-may-care pressure offensive against Chatchai Sasakul of Thailand in 1998.

Pacquiao had to make his message clear again: You don't bargain for a world boxing crown using loose change-"Hindi puwedeng barya-barya lamang."

* * *

(SIDE BET: Malacañang is busy preparing a grand celebration for the victorious trio of Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, complete with a ticker tape parade and a welcome by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday. This was relayed by broadcaster Hermie Rivera, who said he has been tasked to turn over the golden fighters to the President after the parade.… Gene Labadan of the PAL corporate communications office is calling members of Class 1975 of Misamis Occidental National High School (MONHS) to a meeting on Oct. 31, 3 p.m. at the Rhovic's Place, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental to discuss their grand reunion for 2006. Please contact Leola Estela at tel. 09278960951 and Carlos Villa, 0917-8971720.)

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR 999

Race 1—1. All Class 2. Burning Steel 3. Sir Olizon 4 Ilocos Princess
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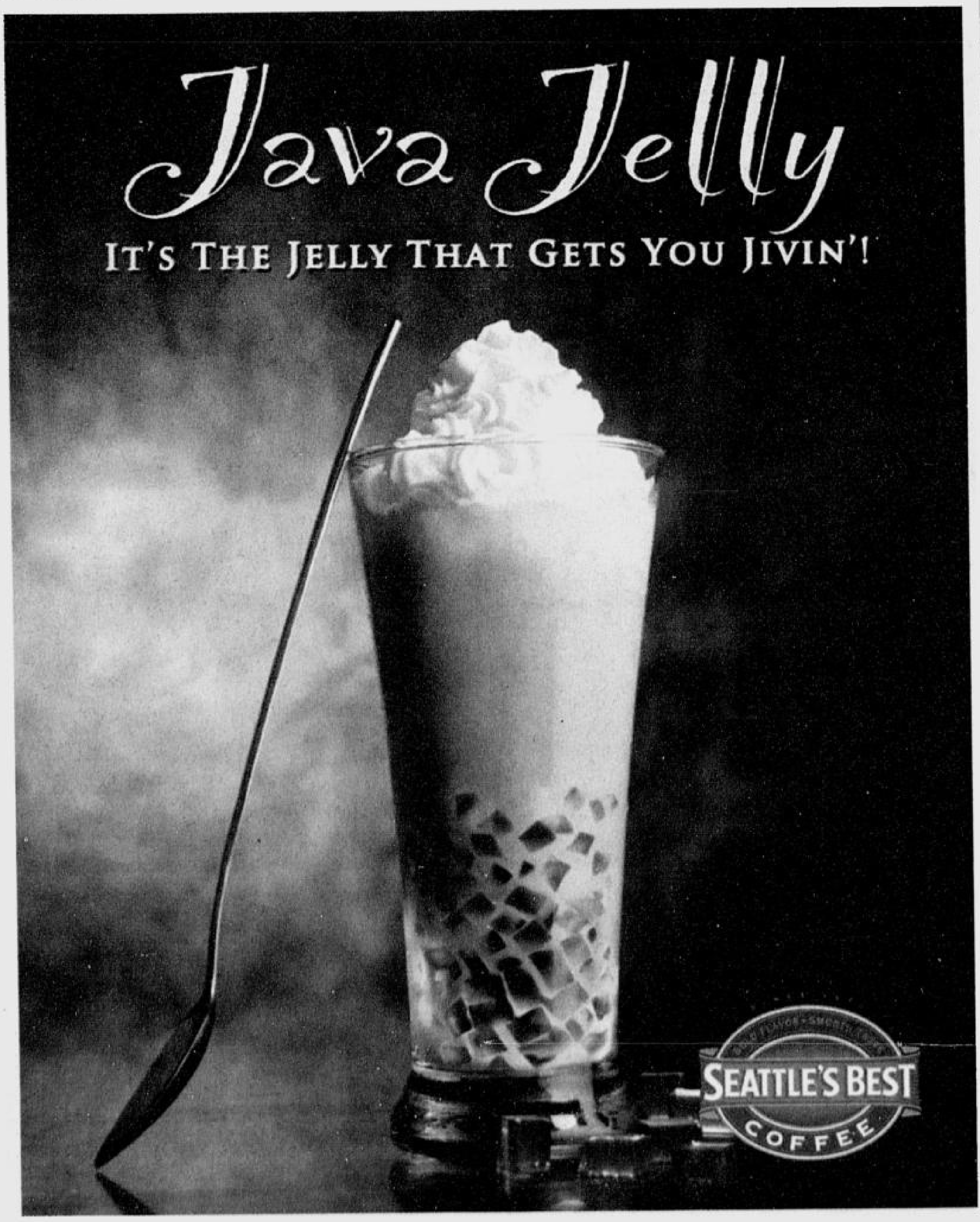
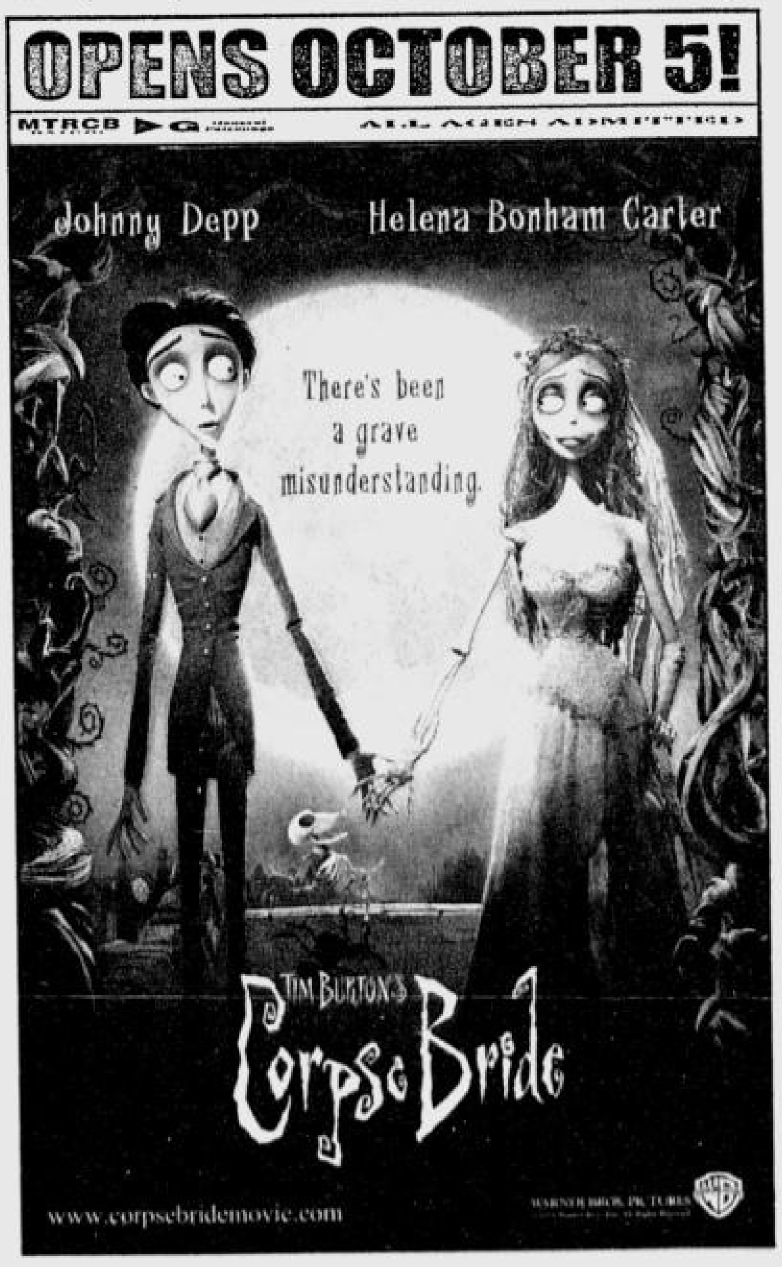
Race 3—1. King Ryan 2. Silent Witness 3. Xangie's Halo 4. Mischievous
Race 4—1. Ghurka 2. Toril 3. Kokopelli
Race 5—1 Spectacular Play 2. Wear the Fox hat 3 Tres Jeune/Maria Makiling 4. Desert Fly
Race 6—1. Quick Pick 2. Blue Iris/Primo Supremo 3. Perfect Gift
Race 7—1. Romario 2. Scene Stealer 3. Reign of Roses 4. Courage Heart
Race 8—1 Like Kevin 2. Royal Bat 3. Pilgrim 4. Accomplice
Race 9—1. Refreshing 2. Key Element 3. Amaretta 4. Demolition Jack 5. Man Power 6. Yoshiwara





RP bet 3rd best Asian in world duathlon

NATIONAL DUATHLON TITLIST RYAN "BAD Boy" Mendoza found the best European, Australian and American athletes at the World Duathlon Championship just too good recently, finishing 29th overall in 2 hours 9 minutes and 38 seconds.

World champion Paul Amey of Britain won the event with a time of 1:56:28, followed by another Briton, Tim Don, also the runner-up last year, in 1:56:53 and Spain's Javier Garcia who was third in 1:57:24.

Mendoza, who is aiming to win next year's Asian Duathlon Championship which the country is hosting in Clark Field, Pampanga, was third best among the Asian entries behind two Japanese bets.

A former Tour ng Pilipinas campaigner, Mendoza finished a respectable third overall in the Asian Duathlon Championships held in Thailand early this year.

"I told Ryan that it will be a tough competition and now he realizes how tough it was. Still it was a good lesson and experience for him," said team manager Melvin Fausto.

Former national triathlon champion George Vilog also found the opposition in the 25-29 age group too tough and wound up 35th.

Three British entries topped the women's elite field with Michelle Dillon, Catriona Morrison and Andrea Whitecombe clocking 2:11:06, 2:11:29 and 2:11:36, respectively.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, describing the event as the scariest thing she has done with all the tight U-turns along the hilly route, finished the 10K run-10K bike-5K run event in 3:14.36.

She finished behind another Asian bet, Tomori Oda, who clocked 3:11:00.

The Philippine team's stint in Newcastle, Australia, was backed by Pagcor, Smart Communication, DOT, Five9 Philippines, Maxi Group of Companies, Clark Development Corp., Mimosa Montevista Villas, Clarkfield, Mizuno, Aseastar Sports, Accel, Rudy Project, Promax, Endurox, Enervon, Accelerade, Transition 1 and Rising Sun Tri.

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Injured Dy bows out; Zoleta rips Taiwanese

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHINESE TAIPEI'S MIAO YUILYNN stunned the injured Fil-American pride Denise Dy, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday to reach the girls' singles quarterfinals of the second-leg Phinma-ITF junior tennis championships.

Miao broke the hearts of the first-leg champion's admirers, wearing down Dy from the baseline at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center.

The 13-year-old Miao was playing only her third tournament this year but showed mental toughness against Dy, ranked 301st in the world, who revealed her wrist injury only after the match.

Miao will next take on seventh-seeded Stephanie Vogt of Liechtenstein. Vogt, who beat her in the first round of the first leg last week, 7-5, 7-5, had earlier waylaid Filipino Trudy Gine Amoranto, 6-1, 6-1.

"I didn't go out playing to win the game right away, but I think she's bothered by her hand," said Miao through her father, Steve, who dropped his teaching career to follow his daughter's career.

Miao's victory somehow avenged her doubles defeat—with Anjie Lee—to Dy and Fil-Spanish Edilyn Balanga in the title clash last week.

Also yesterday, local bet Noelle Nikki Zoleta booted out fourth seed Taiwanese Lo Chiao-fan, 6-2, 6-3.

Zoleta advanced against elder sister and fifth seed Noelle Conchita, who scored a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Malaysian Tiara Sulaiman. Juan Ting Fei of Taiwan ousted No. 6 Melissa Orteza, 7-5, 6-3, to set up a match against Austrian Natascha Bredl, who beat Japan's Ayumi Yoshida, 6-4, 6-2.

Santos powers FEU Tamaraws

From page A25

rushed onto the court and hit Santos on the back of his head. The unsportsmanlike action was caught on television.

Commissioner Joe Lipa said he will review the incident on tape before submitting a recommendation to the league's technical committee.

Before Santos' clutch baskets, the Archers seemed on the way to victory behind Joseph Yeo, who gave La Salle the lead at 73-70 at the 1:37 mark.

Santos had fueled the Tamaraws' offense early in the fourth period, but the La Salle veterans moved the Taft Avenue squad within a point, 68-67.

Yeo drilled in 26 points to pace the Archers, who posted the game's biggest lead at 43-29.

A Santos three-pointer sparked the Tamaraws' 13-0 comeback that tightened the contest at the half, 42-43.

Earlier, Cassie Tioseco fueled the Ateneo Lady Eagles' third-quarter run for a 66-56 Game 1 triumph over the defending champion Adamson Lady Falcons in the women's basketball finals.

The UP Junior Maroons then arranged a junior title showdown against the La Salle Bengals after stunning back-to-back champions Ateneo Eaglets, 76-58, in their knockout semifinal game.

Francis Maniego and Mark Lazo shot 17 points apiece for the Maroons.

The varsity scores:

First Game (Women)

ATENEO 66—Tioseco15, Chua 12, Barracoso 12, Matreo 9, Quimpo 6, Caynap 6, Tan-Chi 2, Ngo2, Villanueva 2, Pacheco 0.

ADAMSON 56—Bombeo 16, Arayi 15, Lomogda 9, Ravago 8, Constantino 6, Rieta 2, Cenita 0, Santiago 0, Ortiz 0, Jaleco 0.

Quarters: 18-18, 32-33, 51-42, 65-56

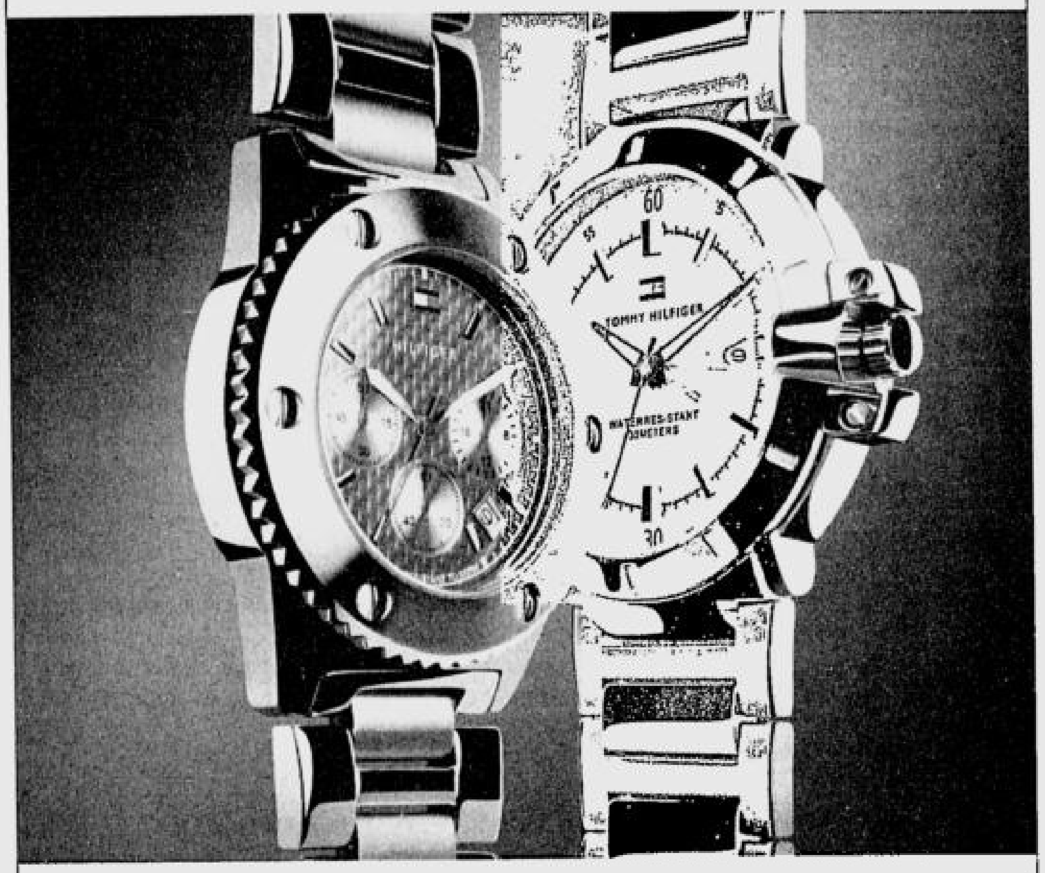
Third Game (Srs)

FEU 75—Santos 29, Saldua 11, Isip 10, Chan 8, Fernandez 7, Villanueva 5, Rizada 3, Barcellano 2, Mangahas 0, Flores 0, Dela Cruz 0.

LA SALLE 73—Yeo 26, Arana 13, Casio 11, Cabatu 9, Maierhofer 6, Villanueva 5, Benitez 3, Tang 0, Barua 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 17-28, 42-43, 59-59, 75-73

TOMMY HILFIGER
WATCHES



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09:21LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

3 CINDERELLA MAN
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

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1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DARK WATER
4 DUBAI
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
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8 A SOUND OF THUNDER
9 DUBAI
10 LAZARUS CHILD
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 ONE MISSED CALL 2
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6 DARK WATER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 PERFECT CATCH

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2 DUBAI
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DARK WATER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 PERFECT MAN
7 TRANSPORTER 2
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 DUBAI
10 A SOUND OF THUNDER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 CONSTANT GARDENER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
DUBAI
BLADE OF THE ROSE
PERFECT MAN
ONE MISSED CALL 2
9 CONSTANT GARDENER
10 DARK WATER

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DUBAI
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DUBAI
2 PERFECT MAN
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 TRANSPORTER 2
8 DUBAI

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1 PERFECT MAN
2 TRANSPORTER 2
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7 DUBAI
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9 ONE MISSED CALL 2
10 LOVESTRUCK
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
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1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
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4 DARK WATER
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1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DARK WATER
3 THE CAVE
4 LOVESTRUCK
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1 DUBAI
2 CINDERELLA MAN
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1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DUBAI
3 TRANSPORTER 2
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6 DUBAI
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1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 DUBAI
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DARK WATER

SM CITY DASMARINAS
LAND OF THE DEAD
THE CAVE
DUBAI
4 DARK WATER

SM CITY LUCENA
DUBAI
2 DUBAI
LONGEST YARD
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BATANGAS
CINDERELLA MAN
2 DUBAI
THE CAVE
4 LONGEST YARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
6 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
DUBAI
8 DUBAI

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DAVAO
THE CAVE
SKY HIGH
DUBAI
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
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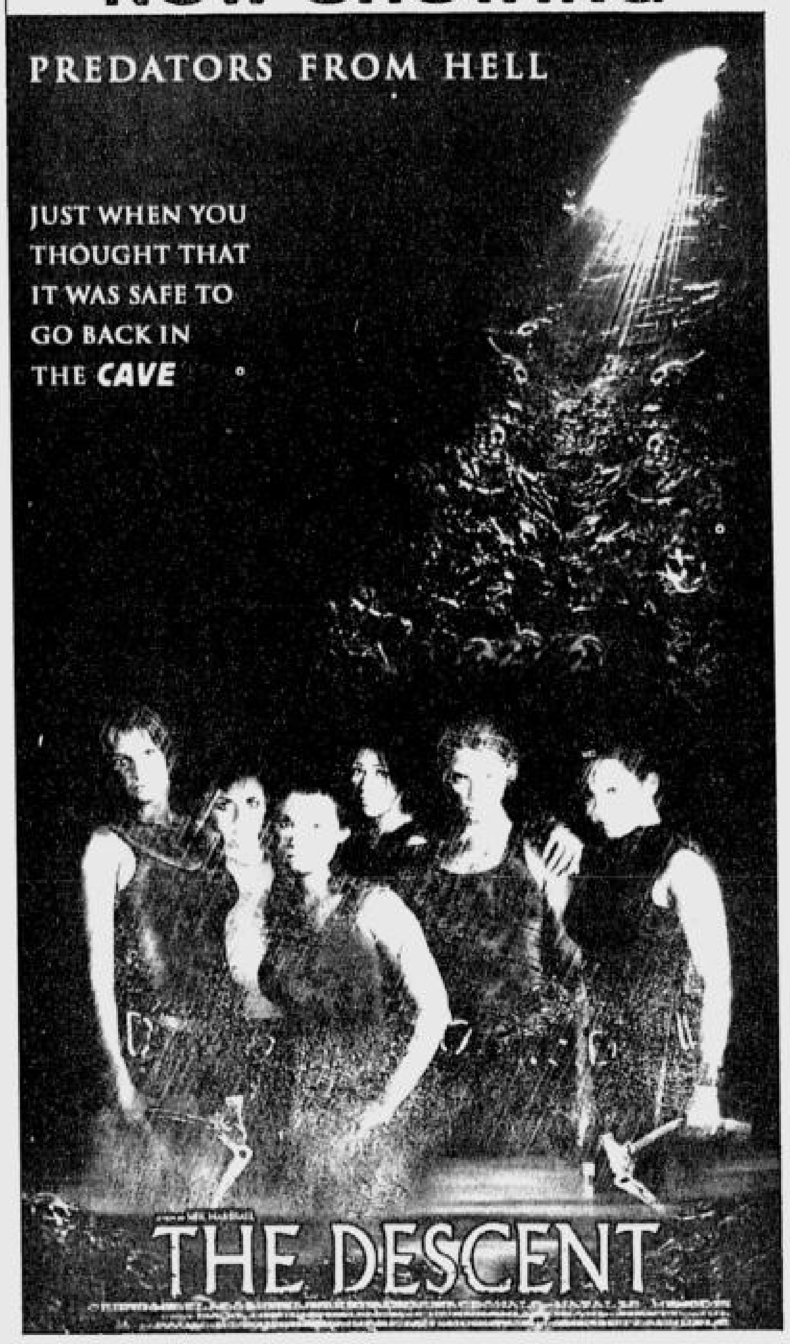

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FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① CINE EUROPA 8
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

② PERFECT MAN
MTRCB:GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

③ DUBAI
MTRCB: PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

④ TRANSPORTER 2
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE THE PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB GP 12:00 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Promo period: September 28-October 4, 2005. See posters for details. Per DTI NCR permit no. A3 778 Series of 2005

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687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	DUBAI 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2	PERFECT MAN 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 GP
3	TRANSPORTER 2 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4	PERFECT CATCH GP

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PERFECT CATCH GP 12:50,3:05,5:20,7:35,9:50	THE PERFECT MAN GP 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15	DUBAI PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
DUBAI PG13 11:35,2:05,4:35 CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 6:50,9:20	THE DESCENT R18 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	TRANSPORTER 2 PG13 11:30,1:35,3:45, 5:55,8:05,10:15

Padres clinch West diadem

SAN DIEGO—PEDRO ASTACIO CARRIED A shutout into the seventh inning as the San Diego Padres clinched Major League Baseball's NL West Division crown with a 9-1 victory Wednesday over the San Francisco Giants.

San Diego (79-79) still has work to do in order to avoid becoming the first division champion to finish with a losing record.

The Padres need to win their final four games to finish with more wins than the 1973 New York Mets, who hold the record for fewest victories (82) by a division winner in a full season without a labor dispute.

Embattled Giants star Barry Bonds went two-for-three with a pair of singles.

After being cut by Texas earlier this season, Astacio (4-2) has been a steadying force in San Diego's rotation.

The right-hander has yielded two runs or less in nine of his 10 starts with the Padres. *AFP*

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OPENS OCT. 5

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A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

CHAMP: WBO heavyweight titlist Lamon Brewster (left) of the US hits German Luan Krasniqi on Wednesday in Hamburg. Brewster won by TKO in the ninth round. AP

Rosales two shots off Wiratchant

BEIJING—FILIPINO GERARD ROSALES FIRED A ONE-UNDER-PAR 71 Thursday to trail Thai leader Thaworn Wiratchant by two shots after the first round of the Crowne Plaza Open at the Grand Epoch City Golf Club here.

Rosales was the best-placed Filipino in the rain-hit kickoff of the $200,000 event as Danny Zarate could do no better than a 75, Carito Villaroman struggled to a 77 and rookie Cookie La'O wound up with a wild 82.

Wiratchant, the current Asian Tour Order of Merit leader and winner of the Taiwan Open two weeks ago, shot a three-under-par 69 to be a stroke clear of rising Chinese star Li Chao.

Persistent pre-winter showers in the morning caused a one-hour delay. In all, 45 players will return early Friday to complete their first rounds.

Rosales was in a three-way tie with Thailand's Prom Meesawat and Hong Kong's James Stewart at 71.

Wiratchant, also the winner of the Standard Chartered Indonesia Open in March, yielded two shots on bogeys in the first two holes but came back strongly with six birdies over the last 10 holes.

Rosales, Meesawat and Stewart all completed their round in fairly good weather.

The Filipino birdied the third and eighth holes but bogeyed the 16th.

The 24-year-old Li, playing as the Chinese spearhead in the absence of Tour star Zhang Lianwei who backed out due to injury, fought back with five birdies after bogeying two of the first three holes.

OKTOBERFEST NA!

Beer na Walang Katulad

San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen is indeed a beer like no other! And because the Department of Tourism recognizes the San Miguel Oktoberfest as one of the country's official fiestas, we're kicking off this year's Oktoberfest like no other…with a month-long San Miguel beer fairs nationwide. There's something happening everyday in all our venues. So, take your pick: Bluewave, Macapagal Ave.; Eastwood, Libis; EDSA Central; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Greenhills; Intramuros; Metrowalk; Perimeter Road, Olongapo; SM City, Cebu; Sta. Lucia, Cainta; Starmall, Las Piñas; Stations 1, 2, and 3, Boracay; and The Venue, Davao.

Beer Paraiso

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Lucky Beers

Your beers can also win you P1,000,000 at Oktoberfest! Just buy a minimum of 5 beers and register to get a shot at testing your luck in the **SMB Lucky 7** P1M Cash Prize Giveaway. Pick all 7 special boxes out of the 14 presented to you, and you go home P1,000,000 richer! So, who says 5 beers can't be lucky?

Best Beerman

It's a test of endurance both for you and your cellphone's battery in the **SMB SMS Promo**. Every Friday and Saturday, every beer you buy at our fairs gives you a unique code to text to all our Oktoberfest Telecommunication Providers. By the end of the night, you can win as much as P2,500 cash if you down the most number of beers.

Loyal Beerdrinkers

And of course, the regulars will be well attended to. Buy a beer everyday in any of our beer fairs and fill up your **SMB Oktoberfest Loyalty Card** with stamps. P2,500 cash awaits the chosen one in each venue! So what are you waiting for? "Mag-Oktoberfest na, maghapo't magdamagan!"

Beerdrinkers unite! 'Pag hanap mo'y walang katulad, saan ka pa mapapadpad? Mag-San Miguel Oktoberfest agad! Kasiyahan dito'y walang katulad dahil kasama natin ang San Miguel Pale Pilsen! Ang Beer na Walang Katulad!

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• SCHEDULE OF EVENTS •

Kickoff Party: FRIDAY, SEPT 30
Closing Party: FRIDAY, OCT 28

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SMB Lucky 7 (P1M Cash Giveaway)

FRIDAYS TO SATURDAYS:
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Zenaida Serrano • Chuck Raagas • Priscilla Battung • Analiza Brun • Alfie Friolo • Evelyn Obasa • Romeo Ordiz • Estelita Balde • Elda Ayag • Henry Calimlim • Jovelyn Manipon • Leonicia Baldon
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Ronald Enriquez • Remedios Michelle San Pedro • Sherlyn Chavez • Cristina Marie Manzano • Roland Azores • Mark Pabillaran • Ruthil Bajenting

Dalawang linggo na lang, Grand Draw na! Keep texting your entries to 2600!

Promo is until October 15, 2005. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit #2445, Series of 2005. For Metro Manila deliveries, tumawag lang sa Gen-U-Win Gasul Delivery Hotline at (02) 737-8000.

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE PERFECT CATCH • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 THE TRANSPORTER 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

5 THE PERFECT MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 ONE MISSED CALL 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

8 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

9 DARK WATER
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

10 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7609 to 12

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

2 ONE MISSED CALL 2
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:00 1:55 3:50
THE PERFECT CATCH 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:10 2:10 4:10
DARK WATER 6:10 8:05 10:00

7 THE PERFECT MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193, 682-8199

1 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 ONE MISSED CALL 2
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 DARK WATER
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 THE PERFECT CATCH
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 THE TRANSPORTER 2
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

8 LOVESTRUCK
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE CROW 4
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE PERFECT MAN
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER

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1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 EVIL EYES
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DARK WATER

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CINDERELLA MAN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE CAVE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DARK WATER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4 DARK WATER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1027 (045) 961-5270

1 DARK WATER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
5 THE CAVE
6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 THE CROW 4
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE CAVE
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 RED EYE
6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 THE CROW 4
2 THE CAVE
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

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Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

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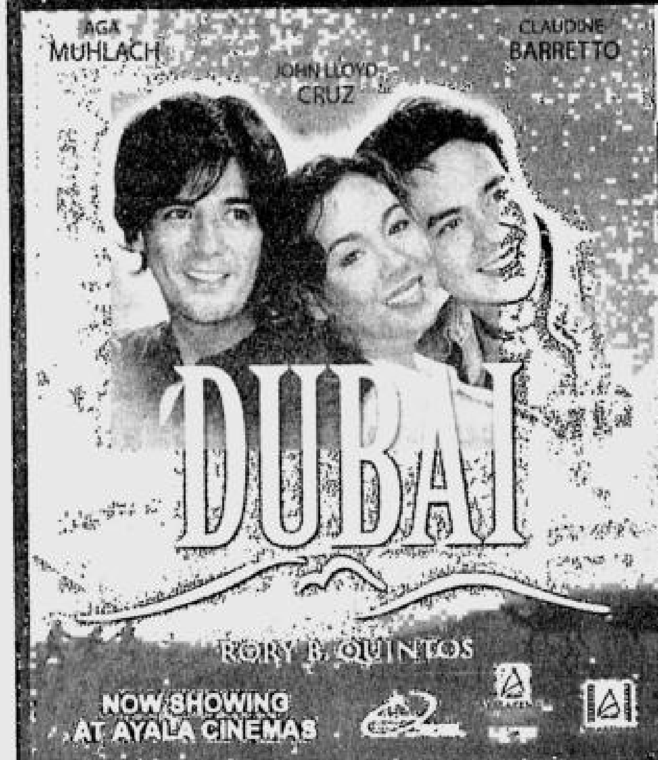
AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ONE MISSED CALL 2	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 DUBAI	4 DUBAI			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT MAN	2 PERFECT CATCH	3 THX TRANSPORTER 2 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LAND OF THE DEAD	5 THE DESCENT	6 DUBAI	7 DUBAI
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865	2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSPORTER 2 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DUBAI 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE DESCENT 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFECT MAN 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DARK WATER 2:25, 4:30, 6:35, 8:40, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX TRANSPORTER 2	2 DUBAI	3 DUBAI	4 THE DESCENT	5 PERFECT MAN		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DUBAI	2 LAND OF THE DEAD	3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER	4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIORS			



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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. A2-455 Series of 2005

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Promo period Aug. 19, 2005 - Feb. 15, 2006 Per DTI-NCR Permit no A2-419 Series of 2005

Dy tops Poker King Challenge in Cebu

LAHUG BUSINESSMAN JESSIE DY OUTLASTED Carlos "Loy" de los Santos and Mike Tyler in thrilling wind-up of the three-hour finals to top the fourth leg of the Poker King Challenge last weekend at Casino Filipino Mactan, Waterfront Airport Hotel in Lapu-Lapu City. All three winners earned seats in the Poker King Grand Finals and also received trophies, gift packs and certificates from tournament sponsors Philippine Gaming Corp., Jack Daniels, Miller Genuine Draft, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, and MyReviewerOnline. After losing in the elimination games last Saturday, Dy joined the evening elimination session and barely made it into the semifinals. Lullete Cañizares of Base Line restaurant, topped the elimination round but finished fourth. The last two places in the final group went to Mike Pomeranz and Eric Ang.

Ford Lynx Cup series

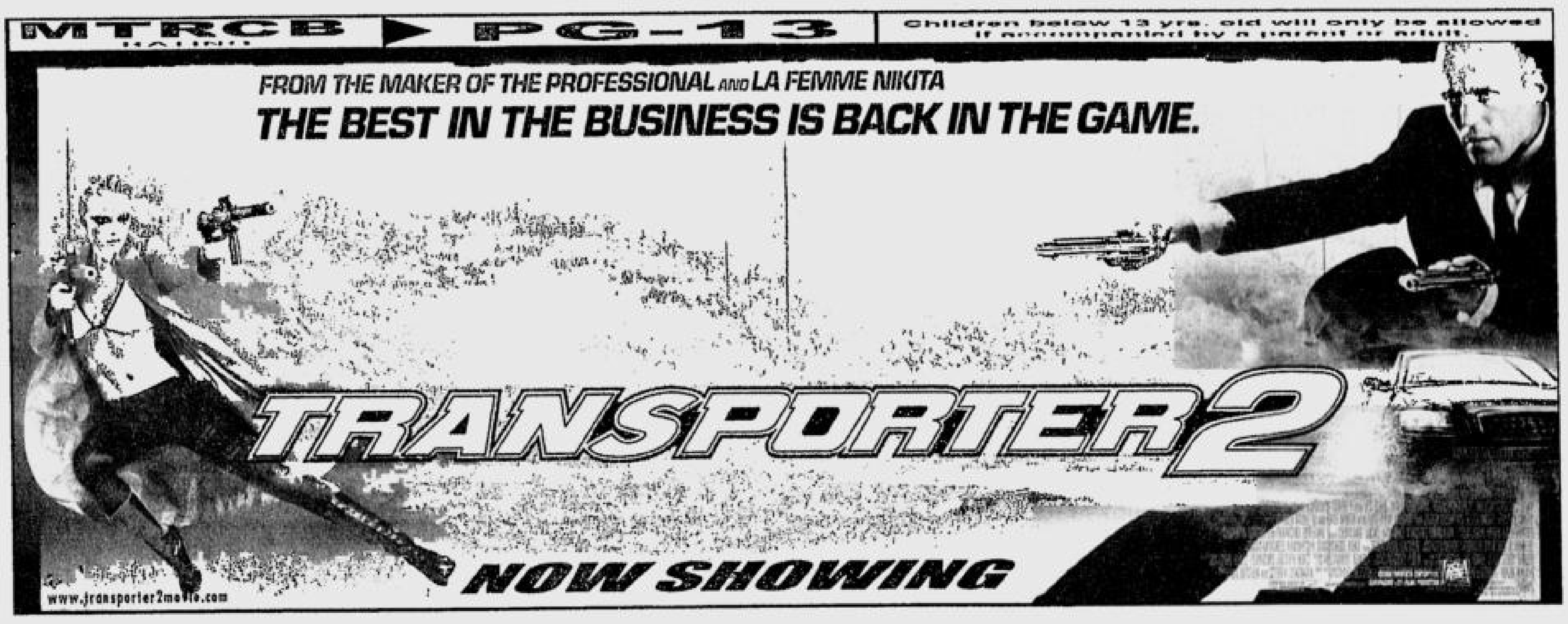
WITH THE SUCCESSFUL conclusion of the Advance Series, it's time for the rookies to take center stage with the holding of the 2005 TRS (Tuason Racing School) Ford Lynx Cup Novice Series. The series is restricted to drivers who have never competed in racing cars before. Race drivers will compete against each other in identical TRS-prepared Ford Lynx touring cars following a format that places emphasis on driving skill. Debuting in the series scheduled on Oct. 1-2 and Nov. 5-6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit and on Nov. 26 and 27 at the Subic International raceway are Francisco Blanco, Kenneth Eero Boren, Jiffy Chua, Matteo Fernand Guidicelli, Norman Agojo and Aaron and Ang Uy. JP Tuason, the TRS president, is also the race director.

Pasay hosts 5-stag derby

STAGS that won in recent derbies are expected to be fielded today in "Labanan Sa Pasay 5-Stag Derby," the biggest annual stagfest of Pasay City Cockpit. Supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the event will start at 3 p.m. with more than 80 matches lined up. Derby host and pit manager Eric dela Rosa has invited members of the National Cockers Association, Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) and Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP), as well as guest participants from Cotabato, Cebu, Davao and Negros Occidental. Among the favored cockers are Biboy Enriquez, Rep. Jing Paras, Patrick Antonio, Dicky Lim, Boy de Roca, RQP San Juan Group and Pepito Ngo.

LCC derby weigh-in up

MORE than 30 well-known cockers and breeders have firmed up their commitment to join the "LCC Leonard 5-Stag Derby," scheduled on Saturday at the fully air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum. Derby host Louie Cua will be assisted by veteran promoter Boy de Roca and *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio. All official entries (weight limits are from 1.7 kg to 2.2 kg) must be submitted today at SJC office, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants may contact 725-5665, 725-5369 and 727-7086 (look for Ariel).


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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Cinema 1
5:30 pm Los lunes al sol
Cinema 2
7:00 pm El juego de la verdad
Cinema 1
8:00 pm Todo sobre mi madre
Cinema 2
9:30 pm Héctor
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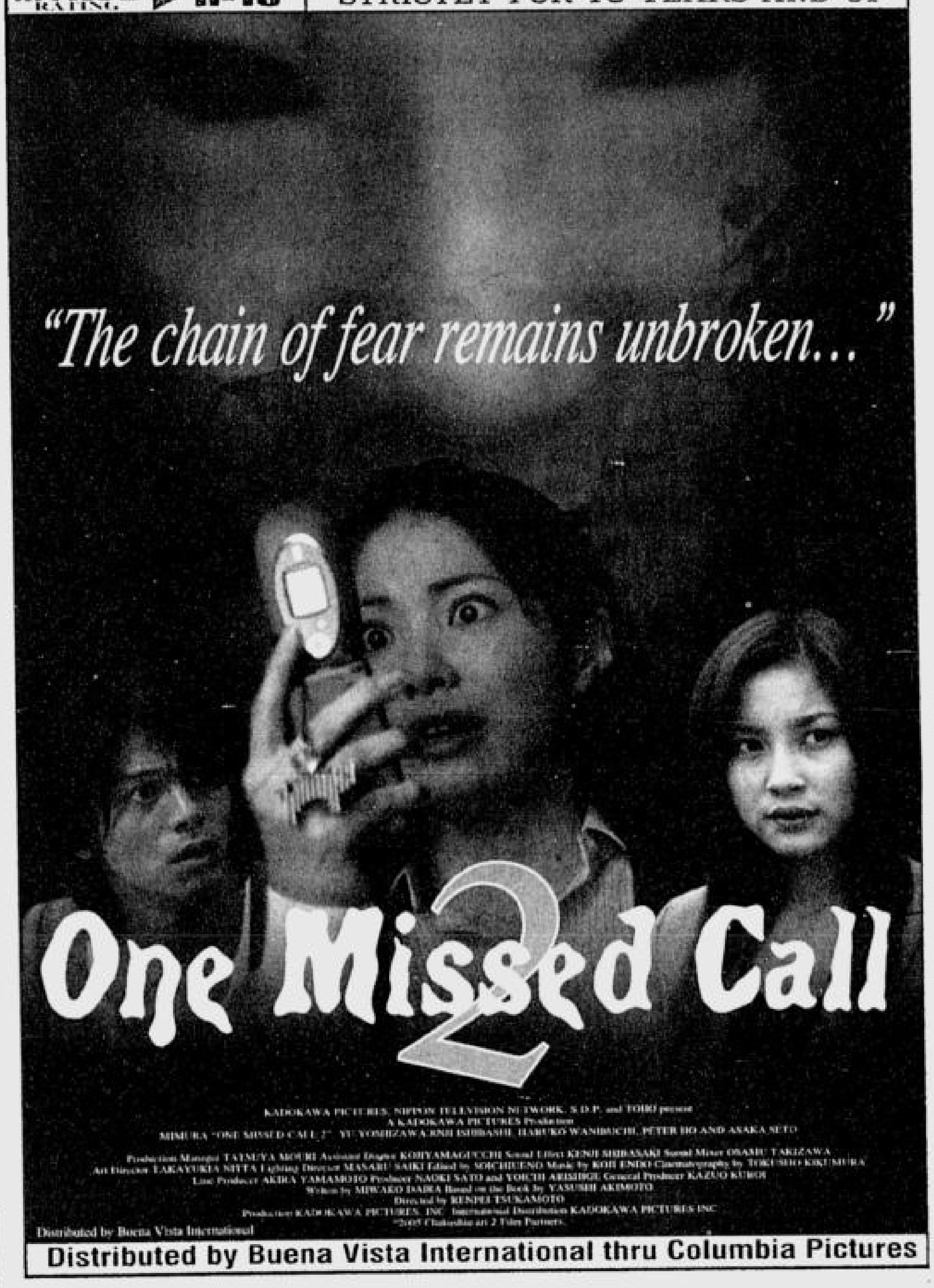
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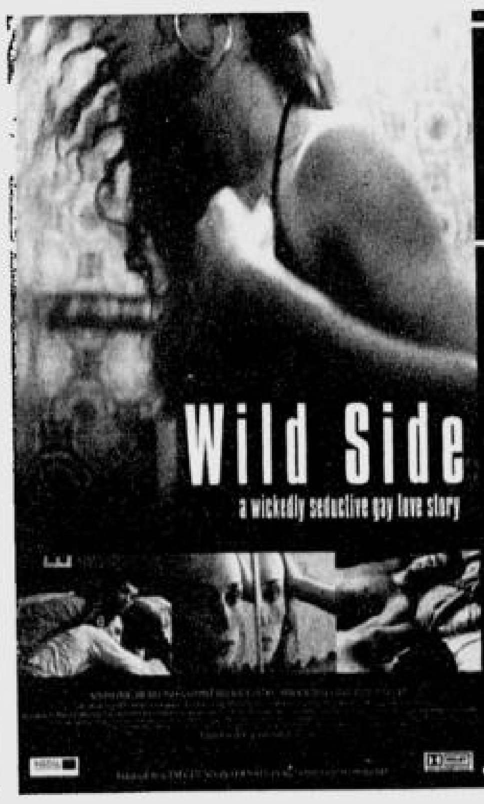
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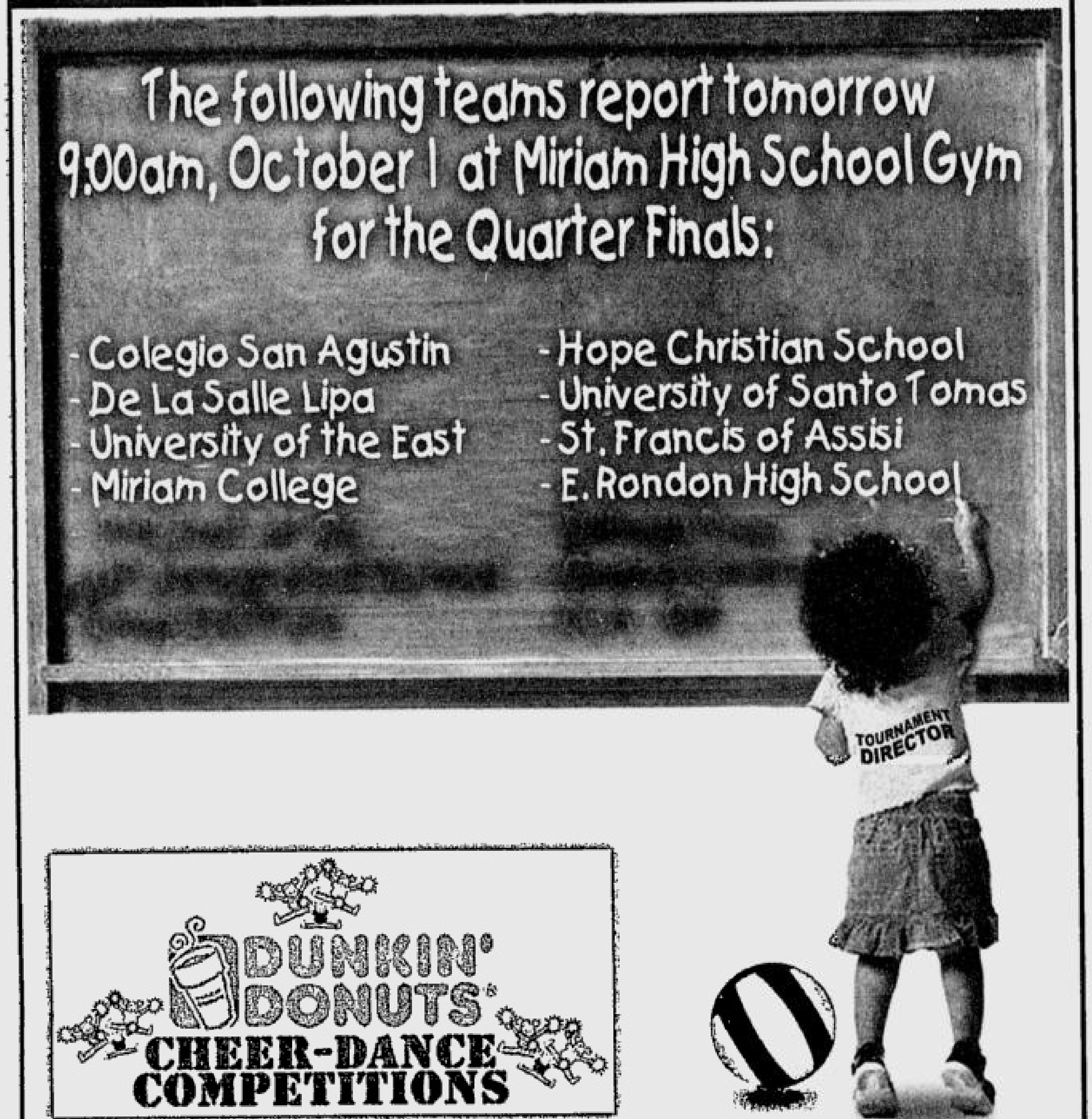
SPORTS

Monster truck, flashy bikes at Custom Car Show

THE 2005 CALTEX DELO SPORT TRUCK Custom Car & Bike Show is ongoing until this Sunday at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City. Organized by TradeShow International Inc., the show brings under one roof more than 70 of the best customized cars, SUVs, sport trucks, pick-ups, vans and motor bikes which are vying for the Best of Show honors in the Sport Trucks, Custom Cars and Motorbikes categories. Among those in display is a customized Toyota Hi-Lux 4x4 Monster Truck.

SHAKEY's GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL LEAGUE



The following teams report tomorrow 9:00am, October 1 at Miriam High School Gym for the Quarter Finals:

- Colegio San Agustin
- De La Salle Lipa
- University of the East
- Miriam College
- Hope Christian School
- University of Santo Tomas
- St. Francis of Assisi
- E. Rondon High School

DUNKIN' DONUTS CHEER-DANCE COMPETITIONS

This fun and exciting event will hold its elimination round on Sunday October 2 at 10:00am, Miriam High School Gym with the finals scheduled for Sunday October 9 at 1:00pm, UST Gym. Early PEP-SQUAD entries are:

- Rizal High School
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Christian Values School
- St. Scholastica
- University of Santo Tomas
- Imus Institute
- Hope Christian School
- Pasig Catholic School
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SAMSUNG INTERSCHOLASTICS

La Salle golfers post record clean sweep

LA SALLE PAINTED THE FIFTH SAMSUNG Interscholastics golf tournament green yesterday by pulling off a clean sweep of all five divisions it entered in runaway fashion at the executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

From college down to the grade school competitions, the top team award went to the same school as La Salle rewrote Interscholastic history with their mightiest showing so far.

Miko Yee highlighted the big show with a 58-point effort that won him the individual crown and powered La Salle Green Hills to the overall plum at the expense of their college elders.

LSGH, also made up of Marco Olives, Alan Guy and Carlos Fonacier, wound up with a 169 total for the day and a 54-hole aggregate of 492, beating the college division-winning De La Salle University by a point.

Jayson Barcelon, William Hong, Oliver Gan, Marlo Capinianes and Charles Hong of DLSU, however, were unchallenged in their division as Ateneo finished 47 points behind.

Geleen Handog, returning to the game after a year-long hiatus, joined hands with Kim Hong, Aina Garcia and Lileth de Villa to win the girls' college-high school crown by seven over St. Paul-Pasig, 172-165.

YEE: Big, big round

And the La Salle Green Hills grade school squad of AR Ramos, Miggy Yee, JP de Claro, Sam Salcedo completed the demolition job by beating the Marcel Puyat-led Ateneo squad, 278-269.

Reagan de Guzman, Ann Sabater, Keena Puzon, Bianca dela Fuente captured the only other title disputed for Reedley, the grade school girls class where no La Salle team was entered.

Individual winners were Charles Hong in boys' college, Crystal Superal in girls' high school-college, Marcel Puyat in boys' grade school, Regan de Guzman in girls' grade school, Princess Superal in the girls' special division and former world jungolf JR Gonzales in the boys' special division.

Pennisi working on reinstatement

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DEFENSE, RED BULLS TRADITIONAL TRADEmark in the Philippine Basketball Association, was missing last year following the departure of big men Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi. Still, the Barakos showed enough improvement under head coach Yeng Guiao by finishing fourth in the last PBA Fiesta Conference.

"Red Bull was wounded by that huge hole in the middle. Opposing teams ran through the Barakos at will," said Guiao during a recent interview at the Photokina penthouse of team owner George Chua.

"Fortunately, we were able to pull through and make the Final Four."

For this season, the 45-year-old Guiao said he would bank on import Quemont Greer, a 6-foot-7, 240-lb reinforcement from De Paul University and old reliable Rico Villanueva, a 6-foot-5 former Ateneo Blue Eagle who has been so impressive that Red Bull made him a millionaire. Guiao added he was also looking forward to the return of Fil-Australian Pennisi who is now in the country to work on his documentary requirements in a bid to rejoin the league just like what Asi Taulava did.

Taulava was barred from playing in the PBA and was ordered deported by the authorities for "faking" his Filipino citizenship, but he was allowed to play again after he submitted documentary requirements proving his Filipino roots. As a result, government agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Immigration and the Games and Amusements Board endorsed Taulava's return to the PBA.

"There is now a precedent," said Guiao. "Pennisi could follow suit."

The 6-foot-9 Pennisi had been a vital cog in Red Bull's successful campaign since the Photokina franchise joined the PBA in 2000.

Married to a Filipina, Pennisi is much admired for his good conduct off and on the court. As a player, he is comfortable at the 3 position because he shoots the 3-point shot. Pennisi is a tough and experienced player.

"We'll be glad to have him back as long as he submits the required papers," said team manager Tony Chua.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala had said that whatever the DOJ decides will be the position that the league will take.

The PBA opens its 31st season this Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Big Dome featuring Red Bull against Purefoods in the lone game at 6 p.m.

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ENTERT NMENT

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

'I don't want to judge Maui'

Lani Mercado says she's just getting to know her son Brian's new girlfriend

MRS. Bong Revilla also talks about being a granny, and not running for mayor of Lipa.

By Marinel R. Cruz

MAUI AND I ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING to know each other. I don't want to be judgmental. *Hindi naman porke gano'n ang trabaho niya, gano'n din ang pagkatao niya,*" said Lani Mercado when asked to comment on the "image" of bold actress, Maui Taylor, her eldest son's newest girlfriend.

Brian Revilla, 18, son of Lani and Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, recently admitted having a relationship with Maui, 22. Brian formally introduced the actress to the Revilla clan during the senator's birthday party last week.

"I heard that she was nervous about meeting us. I think that (Maui's image) was what she was worried about. But if I see that they're getting along well, I will not object," said the mom.

In the end, Lani said, she found Maui "charming" and "pleasant."

No gold digger

"I don't think she's what you might call a '*bilmoko*' girl (loosely, a gold digger). In fact it is she who gives my son expensive gifts," the actress told a group of writers over lunch on Wednesday.

It was not the first time Brian introduced a girlfriend to her, Lani pointed out. "Every time my boys introduce their special someone to me, I would pray that they're not yet serious," she said. "But Brian is intelligent. He would always tell me, 'I still have lots of dreams. I want to fulfill them first before I settle down.' He knows that he has to set a good example to his siblings."

Lani said she was not surprised to see Brian and Maui's pictures all over the papers because "they can't really keep their relationship a secret. They're both celebrities."

The actress was referring to the couple's pictures published in INQUIRER Entertainment last week (Dollywood, Sept. 20, 2005). The pictures were downloaded from Maui's www.multiply.com website.

Granny blues

Bong and Lani have six children—Brian, Jolo, Ina, Gianna, Loudette and Ram.

Jolo, 16, has a son with Grace Adriano, 15, daughter of actress Rosanna Roces.

Rosanna recently accused Jolo of beating up her daughter and forbade him to visit their son, Jose Gabriel Revilla. Grace supposedly broke off with Jolo shortly after the birth of their son.

Jose Gabriel was given a DNA test at the National Bureau of Investigation on Monday. Lani said Jolo submitted his own DNA sample before he left for the United States, where he is a student.

"It will take more than a month to get the result. I hope Jolo is ready, however it turns out. We'll always stand by him," said Lani.

Asked whether she would like another grand child, Lani said, "*Diyos ko po*! Pass *muna*. The family has been traumatized by what happened to Jolo."

As for politics...

Lani added that losing the mayoralty race in Cavite in 2001 was one of her most depressing experiences. Bong lost in the gubernatorial race that same year.

"We devoted so much of our time to the province. The whole family was affected [by the loss]. Our daughters didn't want him to run [for another public office]," she recalled.

This was why, Lani said, she would rather not run for mayor in Lipa City, Batangas, in 2007. "People there have asked me to run. My mom is from Lodlod, a barangay in Lipa," she explained. "Right now, I'm content with what I have. After I lost in the election, I decided that my family would be my priority."

Lani plays Olivia, a battered wife on GMA 7's new afternoon soap series "Agos." The show premieres on Oct. 10.

Lani's co-stars are Christopher de Leon, Dennis Trillo, Sunshine Dizon, Tanya Garcia, Polo Ravales, Paulene Luna and JC de Vera. Mac Alejandre directs.

DID YOU KNOW...

NICK Deocampo, curator of the Pambansang Museo ng Pelikula, left Wednesday for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 50th Asia-Pacific Film Festival, the former Asian Film Festival that has honored many Filipino artists. "Sadly," Deocampo said, "we have no entry this year."

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Pinoy indie wins in Italy

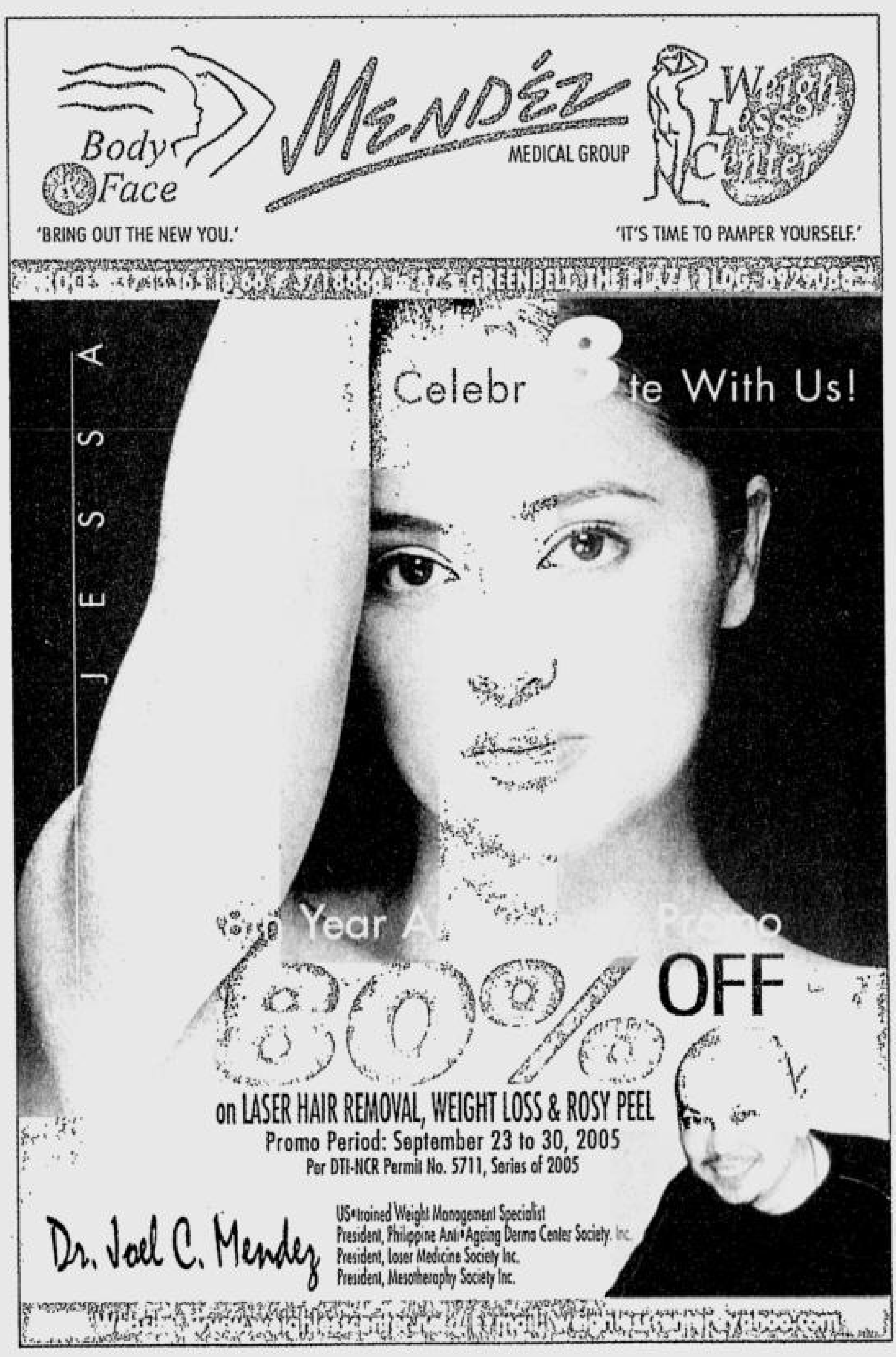
CHEER FACTOR

KHAVN'S "Lata at Tsinelas (Can and Slippers)" was awarded a "Special Mention" by the Associazione Culturale Zert in the "Spazio Immagini" competition of the Morbegno Film Festival in Italy.

The short film was earlier screened in Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Berlin (Germany), Pesaro (Italy), La Palma (Spain), Vila do Conde (Portugal) and Singapore.

Next month, "Lata at Tsinelas" will be shown in Sao Paulo, Brazil, along with Khavn's other "Be Movies" short films. Next year, it is included in the Arts and Culture program of the FIFA World Cup in Germany.

Also showcased in Morbegno was Khavn's other short film "Barong Brothers," as part of the out-of-competition section dubbed "Around the World in 50 Minutes." *Bayani San Diego Jr.*



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Star-making showcase for Jimmy Fallon

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"PERFECT CATCH" IS "SATURDAY Night Live" comic **Jimmy Fallon**'s big break in the movies. He co-stars with no less than **Drew Barrymore** in the Farrelly Brothers—directed romantic comedy about a diehard fan (Fallon) of the Boston Red Sox baseball team who falls in love with an ambitious career woman (Barrymore).

Their beautiful relationship sours up when Fallon's love for the Red Sox turns out to be more passionate than his romantic feelings for his girlfriend.

For her part, Barrymore is totally thrown off when she discovers that her rival for her boyfriend's heart—is a baseball team!

Is there any way to save this relationship? At first, Fallon's virtual "addiction" to the Red Sox appears to be impossible to cure—but, as it always does, love manages to find a way.

"Perfect Match" is funny enough, but its comic zingers are limited by the episodic nature of its format—meaning, the fact that it has to follow the ups and downs of a baseball season from game to game makes it feel too structured and predictable after a while.

This feeling of sluggishness is compounded by Barrymore's less than effervescent performance as the movie's female lead. She plays her role too logically, and pretty much ends up as the straight woman to Fallon's comic capers.

A romantic comedy needs *two* antic leads, not just one, to really delight viewers. And screen "chemistry" can't take place when only one principal actor is bubbling!

To his credit, Fallon takes full advantage of the stellar showcase that "Perfect Match" provides him. His long years on "Saturday Night Live" have trained him to be a versatile comedian who can do both verbal and physical comedy to a witty "T."

In one scene, he even does some body-slamming dance routines. And he's good-looking enough to come off as this generation's **Tom Hanks**. If he keeps his career on its currently upward trajectory, think where he'll be 10 years from now!

A final word about the movie's impact on local viewers: The fact that it's about a baseball team dampens its appeal here, because this is basketball country.

Still, technicalities about baseball are kept to a minimum, so even the non-sports-minded can enjoy this production, if he overlooks its slow and low middle section, and focuses instead on Fallon's star-making performance.

Robert and Isay at Merk's

YESTERDAY, **Robert Seña** and **Isay Alvarez** launched a Thursday-night performance series at Merk's at Greenhills 3. The hit husband-and-wife team of outstanding singer-actors is expected to score major entertainment points with its popular musical show about love in all of its enchanting and confounding configurations. Call 757-4720.

'Corpse Bride'

TIM BURTON'S eagerly anticipated stop-motion animated fantasy "Corpse Bride" had an invitational gala premiere at Glorietta 4 yesterday.

The film is about a young man named Victor (voiced by **Johnny Depp**) who, on the eve of his marriage to Victoria (**Emily Watson**) accidentally places her wedding ring on the hand of a mysterious Corpse Bride (**Helena Bonham-Carter**).

He's instantly whisked into the Underworld, a place more colorful than he could ever have imagined. But he comes to realize that nothing can keep him from his one true love, and he rises to the challenge of reuniting himself with his fianceé.

On Cartoon Network

NEW SERIES and premieres: Beginning Oct. 4, "Bottle Top Bill" screens every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m., teaching young viewers to reuse and recycle. The world of Bill and his best friend Corky the horse is made up of everyday bits and pieces. A mountain is formed from old boxes, and a cave is fashioned out of a bucket and old carpeting. Kids will find that imagination and creativity have no limit as they go on adventures with Bill and Corky.

SHOW TIME

Rock stars sing for HealthDev

"PALS (People with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Rocks" will be held at the UP Bahay ng Alumni on Oct. 7. The benefit concert, organized by the HealthDev Institute, aims to heighten awareness of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

SARAH Geronimo

From 7 p.m. to 12 midnight, Family Birth Control, Sugar Free, Silent Sanctuary, Cambio and Cueshé will perform in a show that will also benefit an ALS sufferer, Dr. Edelmundo Dipasupil.

ALS is a rare noncommunicable disease that leaves the patient totally paralyzed but fully conscious—a condition known as locked-in syndrome. There is no known cure.

Sarah G's ready

Sarah Geronimo says she is "emotionally and physically" prepared for her Araneta Coliseum concert, "The Other Side," tonight. "And I pray that I live up to expectations," the singer says.

Special guests are Piolo Pascual and Mark Bautista. Call 911-5555.

Tonight

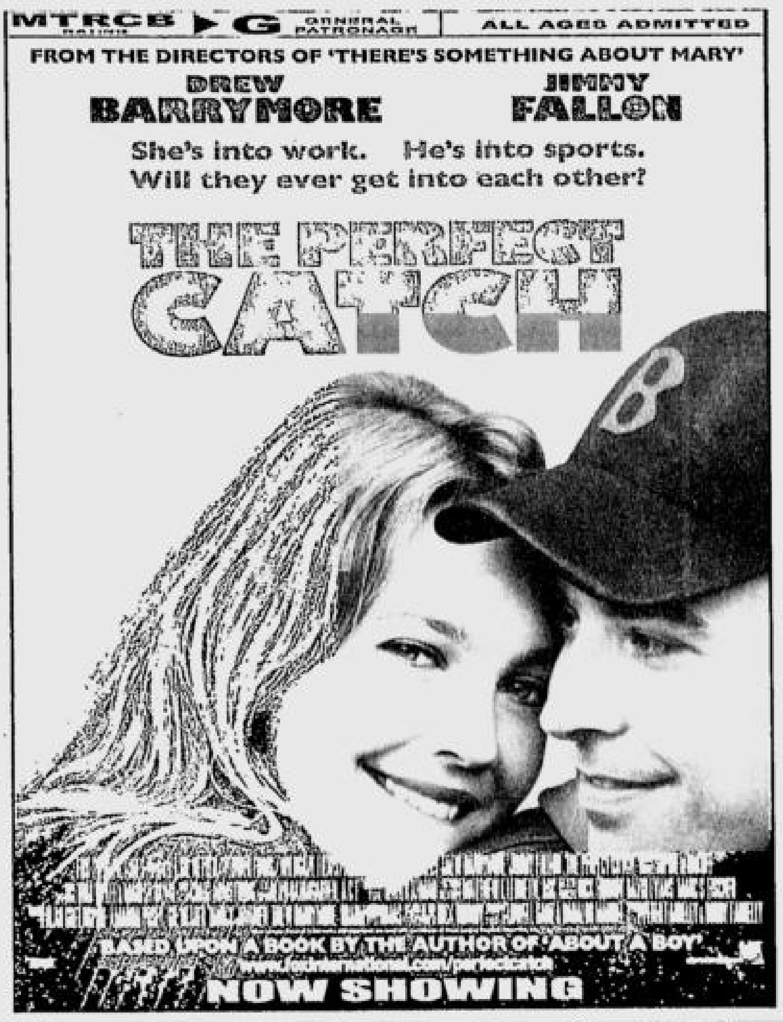
Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental

Blowwith **Diether Ocampo** at **Ratsky Malate**

DJ Elian Habayeb and **DJ Mark Calijentes** feature house music at **M Café** located at the groundfloor of the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m. Call 757-3000.

Ntwine and **Twisted Pair** at **Suburbia**

Unlabeled Band at **Taste Buds**, Robinsons Place Manila.



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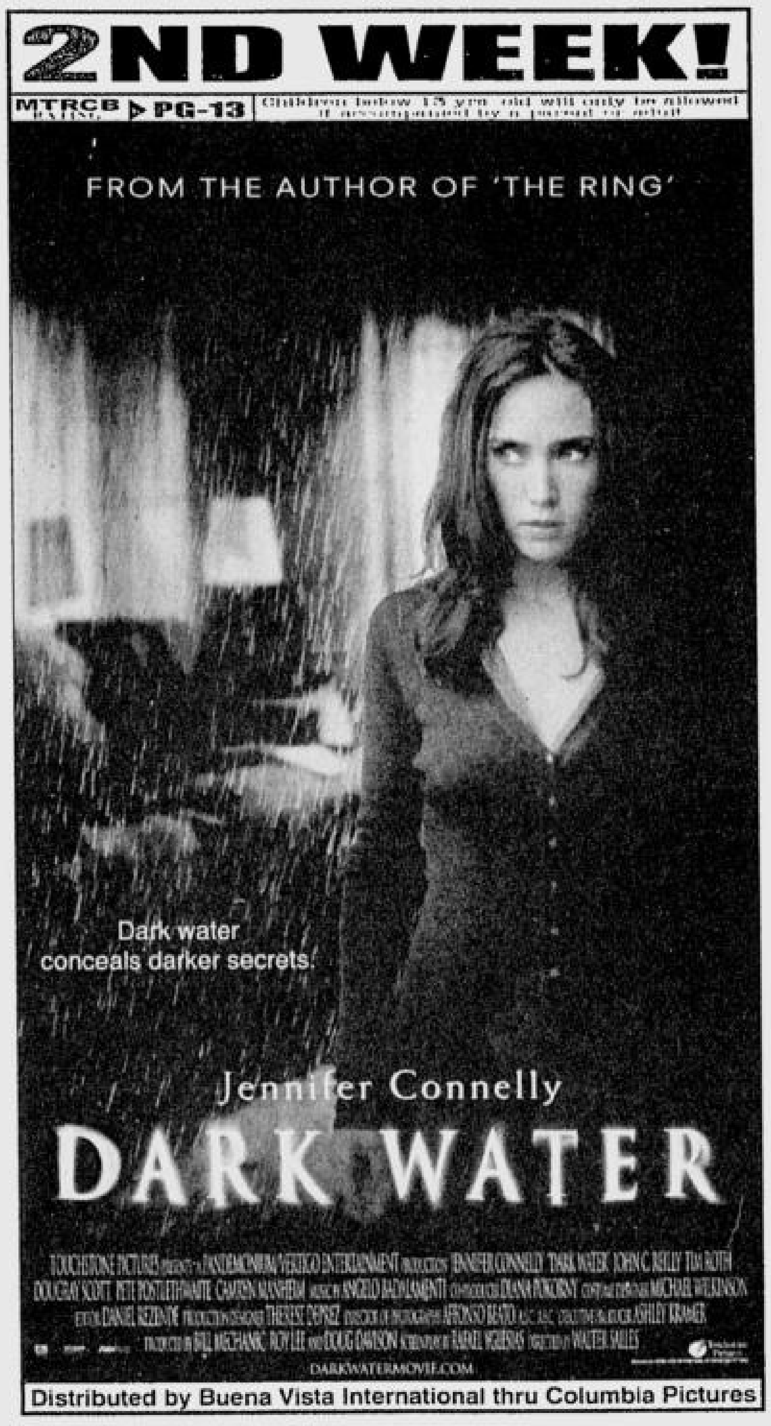

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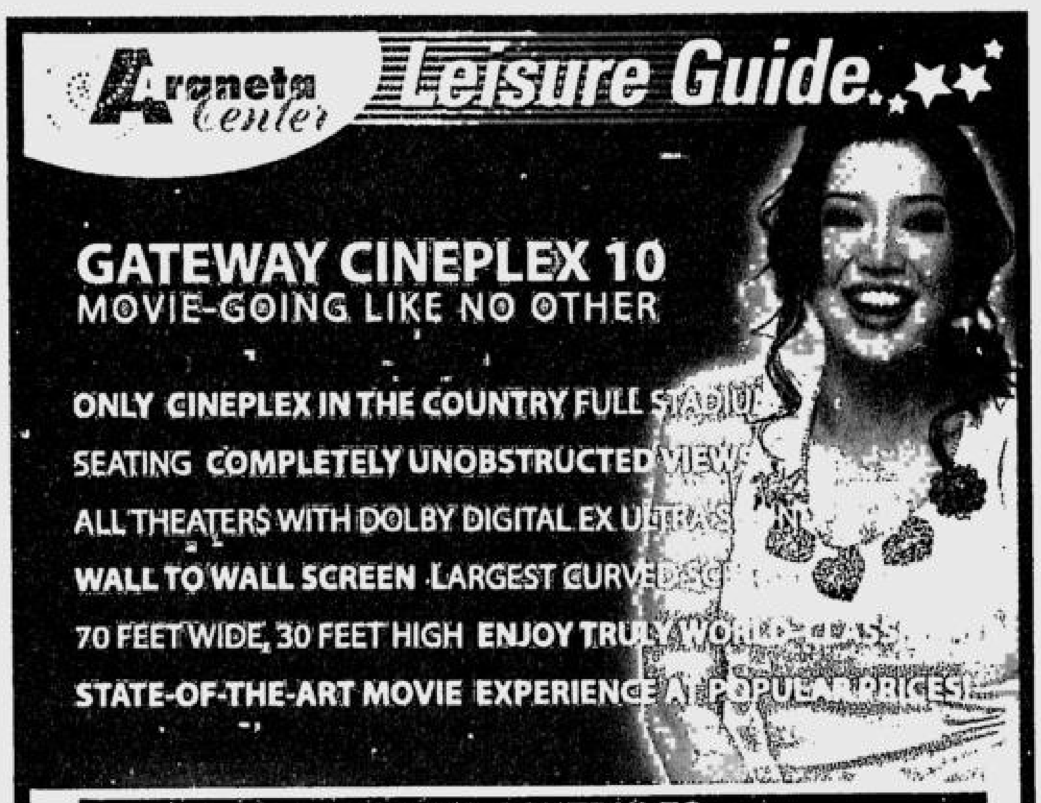

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NINA LIVE ! THE CONCERT October 1, Saturday 8pm

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SALE: Araneta Center Hoopla Sale starts today until October 2. Up to 50% off on great shopping selections centerwide!
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THESE are scenes, not from a movie but from real life. Penelope Cruz's sexy Texan donated money and lent his time and physical presence to the rescue operations for Hurricane Katrina's victims.

Matthew McConaughey shows it's not all fun and parties for stars

LOS ANGELES—IT'S NOT ALL FUN AND parties in Hollywood.

What rarely gets reported is the time and resources that entertainment folks and institutions give to worthy causes all year round. I, for one, am proud to be part of a not-for-profit press organization that donated $250,000 to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Early this year, my colleagues and I voted unanimously to donate $250,000 to the tsunami relief campaign in the Asian region.

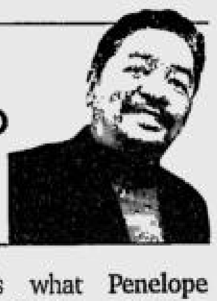
Where do we get all this money to give away? From the television rights to our awards show. During our group's interview with actor **Dustin Hoffman**, he commented that we must be wallowing in money. He was gently reminded that our group, which was named Philanthropist of the Year by Variety in 2004, was a not-for-profit entity.

Celine Dion, **Nicolas Cage** and **George Clooney** are among Hollywood celebrities who wrote $1-million checks each to help in the relief efforts in the aftermath of Katrina. **Julia Roberts**, **John Travolta**, **Sandra Bullock**, **Steven Spielberg**, **Sean Penn**, **Barry Manilow** and many others have chipped in.

One of the actors who not only pledged money but also took time to help in the relief efforts was **Matthew McConaughey**. The star of the new film "Two for the Money" traveled with "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and Oprah's Angel Network staff and crew to bring water and food to the victims. In our recent interview, Matthew was asked to recount some of his experiences during the six-day journey in the ravaged areas. We are guessing that Matthew is back on the road again, this time helping out in the places affected by the latest big storm, Hurricane Rita.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



Incidentally, here's what **Penelope Cruz**'s famous boyfriend said about working for the first time with **Al Pacino** in "Two for the Money," a drama in the high-stakes world of betting on sports: "One thing about somebody whom you respect for his work, but you've never met him—a lot of times when you meet that person, it's an underwhelming experience. You almost wish you didn't meet him. But that was not the case with Al. After working with him in the two months when we got to be very close, I have even more respect for him now and understand what he does. I have more reasons to applaud him now."

Matthew, in the genteel Texan accent that just draws you in, did talk to us about lending a hand in the Katrina-ravaged areas:

I went there not knowing exactly what to do. It was just obvious that there were things to be done. The trip was organized in about six hours, with some people from "Oprah."

We first went to Waveland, Mississippi, one of the hardest hit. Most of the survivors had been rescued the day before. People were just sitting around or surveying the devastation. Their homes were gone. Some were still in shock; others were happy to be alive and find that their families had survived, too. They didn't give a damn about property.

We talked to an extremely rich man who had built a second house after losing his first to Hurricane Camille [in 1969]. He had the house of his dreams engineered to withstand winds of 169 miles per hour. Katrina reduced the house to a pile of six pillars. He told us, "I have the contract from the engineer that says this thing can withstand winds of 169 miles an hour. Well, they say Katrina's winds hit 173." Oops! He started laughing.

Everybody there was on a quicker step forward than those in more urban areas, like New Orleans. Families and neighbors had come back. We watched them unite and say, "We're going to rebuild. We don't know how. We're going to start picking up the two by fours in front of our face."

But there was no electricity, no form of communication. There were shelters that had a surplus of food that nobody knew about. The only reason they had surplus was that many evacuees didn't know where the hell the shelters were. So we informed them.

Then we went to this place in Louisiana where many people migrated to from New Orleans. I heard different stories from different people about how they got there.

Four women found a bus in an alley, tried to hot-wire it but realized it didn't have batteries. So they went over to an abandoned car, took the battery, hooked it up and at last hot-wired the bus. It had two gallons of gas. They ran out of gas twice. Finally they pulled into a Burger King, where they were given free food. They ended up in this nondenominational church in Zachary, Louisiana—so happy to be alive.

A young guy, 25 years old, came up to me and said, "Can I go back to New Orleans and start my job tomorrow?" He hadn't seen TV. He didn't know what happened. I said, "I don't think so, man, your job isn't there anymore." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "It's underwater." He just looked at me like it didn't make sense.

We met a woman who was looking for her daughter and her brother. One of Oprah's producers got on the phone, found a central database and located the woman's daughter and brother in the Astrodome.

Then we went down to New Orleans. Somebody called us and said, "Listen, there's a doctor down in this building. He's not leaving until we pick up the 50 dogs and cats that are with him."

We went on a helicopter down to this hospital. Out of this dark room came the doctor. The dogs and cats were running all over. There was cat and dog poop everywhere. So we got the dogs and cats and the doctor. We hot-wired a boat and drove it down the streets. It was surreal.

We also went to the convention center in Austin, Texas where 5,000 evacuees were sheltered. Mayor Wynn had put together with the community—before Red Cross got there—a small city [with] every social service you could imagine. Besides food, cots and medicine, they had an AA section. They had a Catholic mass section. They had a Protestant mass section.

Priority now is housing, jobs and job training. Things can be donated for the long term. Right now's a good time to get a pool of money and hang on to it because the necessity is going to rear its head six months from now.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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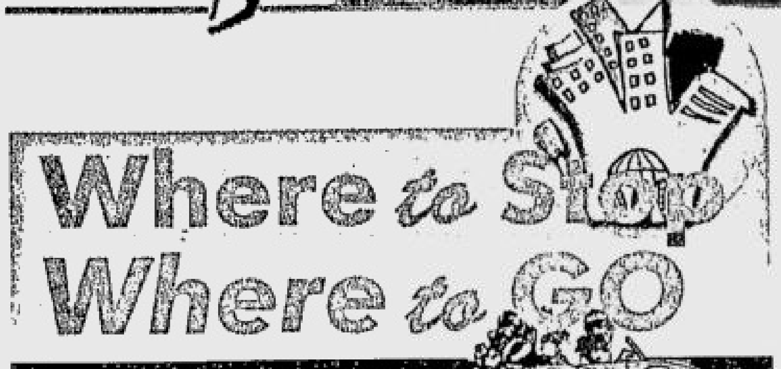

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The perfect venue for conferences

MORE THAN THE COOL CLIMATE (A CONducive environment for training and seminars) Baguio offers to all its visitors the presence of world-class hotels with state-of-the-art amenities and excellent services - enticing characteristics for the city to be known as the "Center of Conference in Luzon".

This is what Hotel Supreme is modestly offering to its customers - five-star attributes for its European designed rooms, complete amenities, world-class service, and personalized treatment to its guests at a very affordable rate.

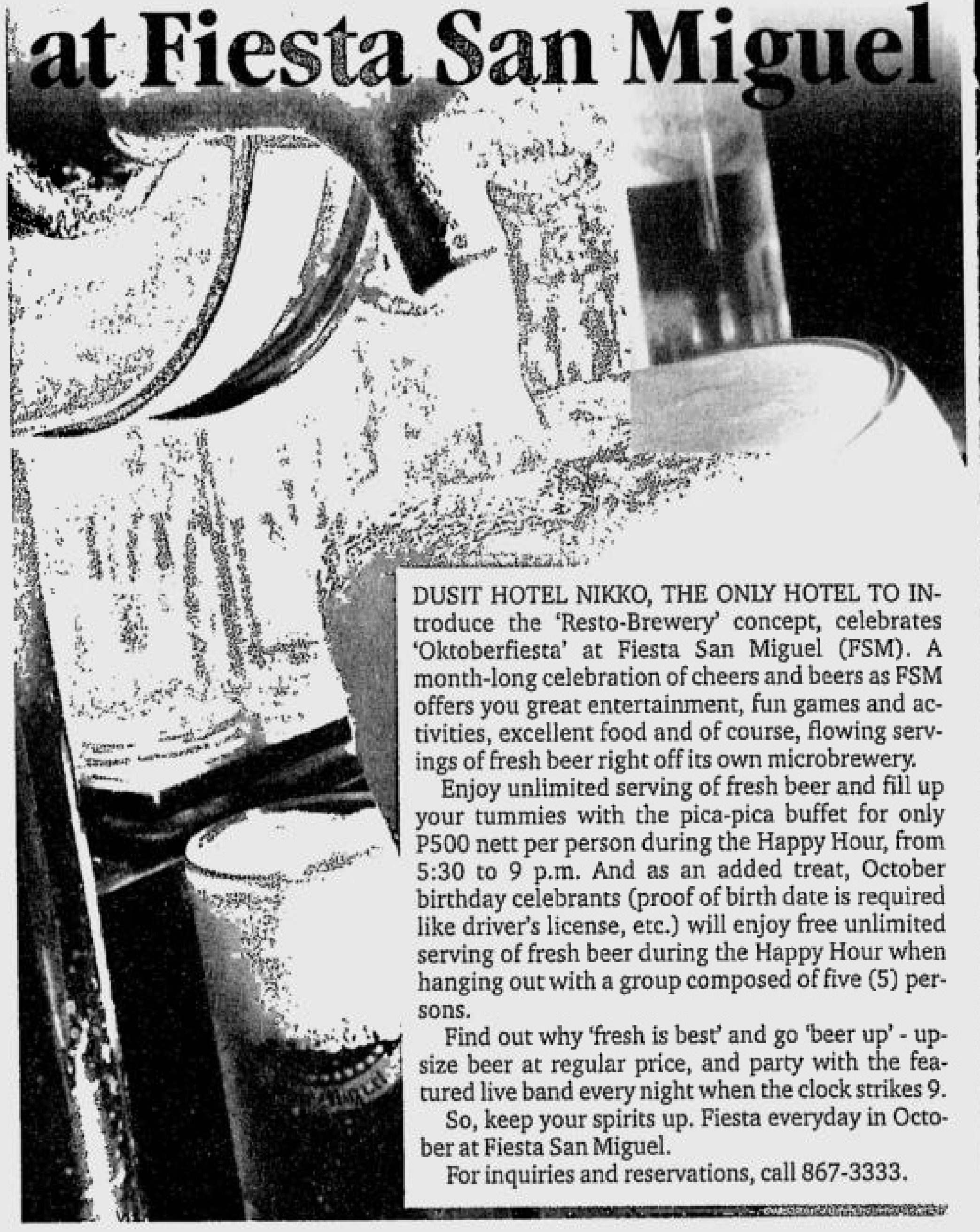
A perfect venue for conferences, Hotel Supreme's current rate is truly easy on the budget. For a minimum of 20 pax - the training package rate is only P850 per person per day including accommodation, two snacks and three meals. Unlike in other hotels in Baguio, the management provides conference venue for free coupled with complete training gadgets and other gizmo requirements.

Hotel Supreme boasts of nine function rooms that can accommodate a large crowd on a single day depending on the type of arrangement. Hotel Supreme manager and proprietor Peter Ng said eight of the hotel's conference rooms are named after gems or stones, for "elegance and easy recall." Except for the Margarita Hall, which is named after his sister as Peter's way of honoring her for conceptualizing it, Hotel Supreme's function rooms provide customers the best and excellent service there is to offer.

For organizers and individuals who cannot find the time out of their hectic schedules to handle reservation especially those based in Manila, Hotel Supreme offers its hotline 250-6025, "to reach us sans long distances charges," Jeff said.

To know more about the hotel, check out www.travelsmart/ph/hotel/supreme.

'Oktoberfiesta' at Fiesta San Miguel



DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO, THE ONLY HOTEL TO INtroduce the 'Resto-Brewery' concept, celebrates 'Oktoberfiesta' at Fiesta San Miguel (FSM). A month-long celebration of cheers and beers as FSM offers you great entertainment, fun games and activities, excellent food and of course, flowing servings of fresh beer right off its own microbrewery.

Enjoy unlimited serving of fresh beer and fill up your tummies with the pica-pica buffet for only P500 nett per person during the Happy Hour, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. And as an added treat, October birthday celebrants (proof of birth date is required like driver's license, etc.) will enjoy free unlimited serving of fresh beer during the Happy Hour when hanging out with a group composed of five (5) persons.

Find out why 'fresh is best' and go 'beer up' - upsize beer at regular price, and party with the featured live band every night when the clock strikes 9.

So, keep your spirits up. Fiesta everyday in October at Fiesta San Miguel.

For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333.

THE BELLEVUE GETS A ROCKIN' REVIVAL

The definitive entertainment and business destination south of Metro Manila, fresh from successfully holding a jampacked Bloomfields concert, invites party people once again to a night of fine wines and rocking revelry. On Oct. 14, The Bellevue Grand Ballroom hosts 'A Night to Remember', a wine tasting affair and concert in one, with crisp whites and flavorful reds from Philippine Wine Merchants at 7 p.m. and all-time favorite songs from Rockin' Revival at 8 p.m. For only P800 nett, get a chance to rock and roll at Alabang's celebrated concert venue The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, while partaking of gourmet canapés expertly prepared by The Bellevue executive chef Hans Peter Eckstein. Call 771-8181 for details.

Mandarin Oriental stages Oktoberfest 2005

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MANILA, recognized for staging various high-impact events that promote cultural understanding and strengthen cultural ties between the Philippines and other countries, sets the stage once more for the most authentic Oktoberfest celebration in the Philippines.

Aptly billed "Oktoberfest 2005" - which is part of the ongoing German Month activities of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), the event will be held on Oct. 7 and 8, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the NBC Tent in Bonifacio Global City, with the support of Siemens, Lufthansa German Airlines, Lifestyle Network, The Philippine Star, NBC, San Miguel, and the German Club.

Capturing the essence of the world's biggest outdoor festival, "Oktoberfest 2005" promises two fun-filled nights of free-flowing beer, a lavish buffet of German delicacies, entertainment from an 11-piece band flown in directly from Munich. Exciting raffle prizes and games, and non-stop dancing. Fun games include the much-awaited beer drinking and yodeling contests.

Regular tickets are priced at P1,750 nett, inclusive of a complimentary mug and unlimited food and beer. A special discount price of P1,550 nett apply for minimum bulk purchases of 24 tickets. Event proceeds will go to the British International School's scholarship fund for underprivileged children.

For ticket reservations and enquiries, call (632) 750 8888 extensions 2400/2401; and, for more information on ECCP's ongoing German month activities, visit www.germany-philippines.com.

Halloween treats at Waterfront Cebu

EVERYONE NEEDS A VAcation these days. And with a long respite coming up next month, its right about to time to start planning, packing up and heading towards Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino (WCCHC). Right smack in the middle of the pulsating metropolis, this luxury hotel can give you the exclusivity and space you need without taking you out of the comforts of the city.

From Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, gratify yourself in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel's Halloween Treats. For only P3,500, enjoy an overnight stay in a Standard or Superior Room, single or double occupancy. Complete with complimentary buffet breakfast for two, an afternoon snack buffet at the Lobby Lounge, 10 percent discount in all hotel owned restaurants, 10 percent discount on laundry and pressing services, complimentary access to the swimming pool and Casino Filipino, you've got all you'll ever need and more. With its 9 signature restaurants, get your fill of the best of Western cuisine and the most authentic culinary dishes of the East.

This room package is valid for local residents or foreigners with valid ACR. Prior reservation is required, so make that call now to tel. nos. (032) 232-6888 locals 8109, 8108, 8107 or through Manila Sales and Reservations office at (02)687-0888. You can also visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net

THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL OFFICERS

The Executive Plaza Hotel, your corporate boutique hotel is proud to introduce its dynamic management team. These officers are responsible for the smooth functioning of the hotel and the achievement of its goals. Photo shows the highly energetic group composed of (first row, from left, seated) Medz Jimenez - OIC front office, Connie Arlos - corporate financial controller, Patty Martin - corporate executive housekeeper, Ninnette Soliman - sales manager and Noemi Gonzales - chief accountant; (second row, from left, standing) Beth Teodoro - general cashier, Analiza Pagaduan - F&B chief accountant, Aurel Cortez - MIS officer, engineer Norberto Furio - chief engineer, Rudy Cuello - assistant executive chef and Lailani 'Ching' de Castro - banquet and catering sales manager. The Executive Plaza Hotel located at 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila is now on its fifth year of operation.

The Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants is one of the world's largest environmental and conservation grants schemes, offering funding in over 50 countries, including the Philippines.

The Grants program is open to everyone working on the preservation of the environment and supporting conservation in a notable manner.

Get your application forms at your nearest Ford or Mazda dealership or visit www.ford.com.ph or www.ecoford.com to download the forms. The deadline for the submission of entries is on September 30, 2005.

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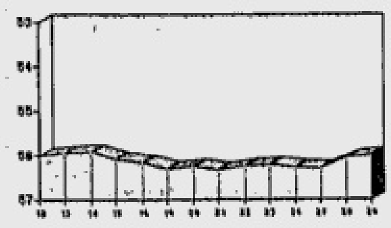

SEPTEMBER

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 29, 2005

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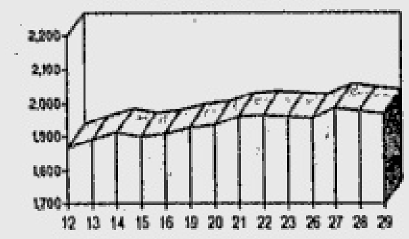
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6-B7)

Shares close 0.3% lower

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.3 percent lower as investors continued to take most profits on fresh political concerns and signs the central bank may raise key interest rates, dealers said.

Gains in Philippine Long Distance Telephone limited the downturn, with the stock in focus on hopes the company will report strong third quarter results.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 5.91 points to 1,970.19 after trading between 1,965.81 and 1,978.29. Volume was 493.2 million shares worth P1.28 billion ($22.93 million). The all-shares index fell 3.41 points to 1,195.40. Losers led gainers 37 to 20, with 57 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

4 firms scramble over IS property

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SCRAMBLE FOR THE 4.8-hectare former International School property in Makati City is beginning to heat up, with four big property developers, including the Ayala and Gokongwei groups, vying for the upscale lot a stone's throw from the business district.

THE AYALA and Gokongwei groups are among those vying for the former International School property on Kalayaan Ave. in Makati.

The prime property on Kalayaan Avenue, which the government plans to bid out at a floor price of about P1.2 billion or P23,000 per square meter, has also attracted high-rise residential developers Burgundy Realty Corp. and the Centuries Property group.

Robinsons Land Corp. executive vice president Frederick Go told the INQUIRER that the Gokongwei group's development plans for the former IS property would depend on the building restrictions covering the area. He noted that the government at first wanted to turn the area into a cyberpark.

A source from the Ayala group, developer of the Makati central business district and the Fort Bonifacio complex, said the company was looking at the property as part of its regular landbanking.

Department of Finance consultant Vicente Sarza said the department would recommend to the government's privatization council—which was set to meet next week—a rebidding of the whole property on a sealed basis.

"The auction will probably be at end-October or early November," Sarza said. "If it's a failed bid, we'll proceed to negotiations."

There had been at least two failed auctions for the property, and the government could resort to a negotiated sale if the bidding would fail a third time, Sarza said.

The area is seen to be ideal for the development of high-rise residential or business complex given its proximity to the Rockwell center.

The land was originally owned by the International School, a foreign institution. In 1975, then President Marcos issued a decree mandating the school to donate the property to the government.

In August 2000, the school and the government agreed to the disposition of the property. The school had since transferred to a bigger and more modern campus in Fort Bonifacio.

Japanese sentiment in RP improves but still negative

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUSINESS SENTIMENT among Japanese companies in the Philippines improved but remained negative for the fifth straight month in September, a Jetro survey showed.

This was due to soaring costs of inputs and energy, Japan External Trade Organization said.

The survey showed that Japanese companies doing business here thought better of the country this month compared to a month ago, but they still gave the country a diffusion index (DI) rating of negative 4.5 percent. This was better than the negative 8.5 percent in August.

The slight improvement was attributed to the recovery in the demand for electronics equipment. Jetro said it would likely improve further in the next two to three months but would remain negative, at -3.4 percent.

Jetro said the Philippine ratings reflected overall sentiment for the five major Asean members—including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore—where overall DI has been on a downward trend since April, and showed negative figures for August and September.

"The sharp rise in the prices of crude oil, steel, and other raw materials continued to impact on the profits of Japanese companies operating in this region, and this is thought to be a contributing factor in the deterioration of business sentiment," Jetro said.

Jetro said companies were not able to pass on the additional costs to customers through increases in their selling prices, resulting in the deterioration of their earnings.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes, expressed as diffusion indices (DI), in their business outlooks for the current month and the next two or three months ahead.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with those recorded in the same period a year earlier.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: Mike's SEC-resistant cousin /B3

ING bullish on RP /B6

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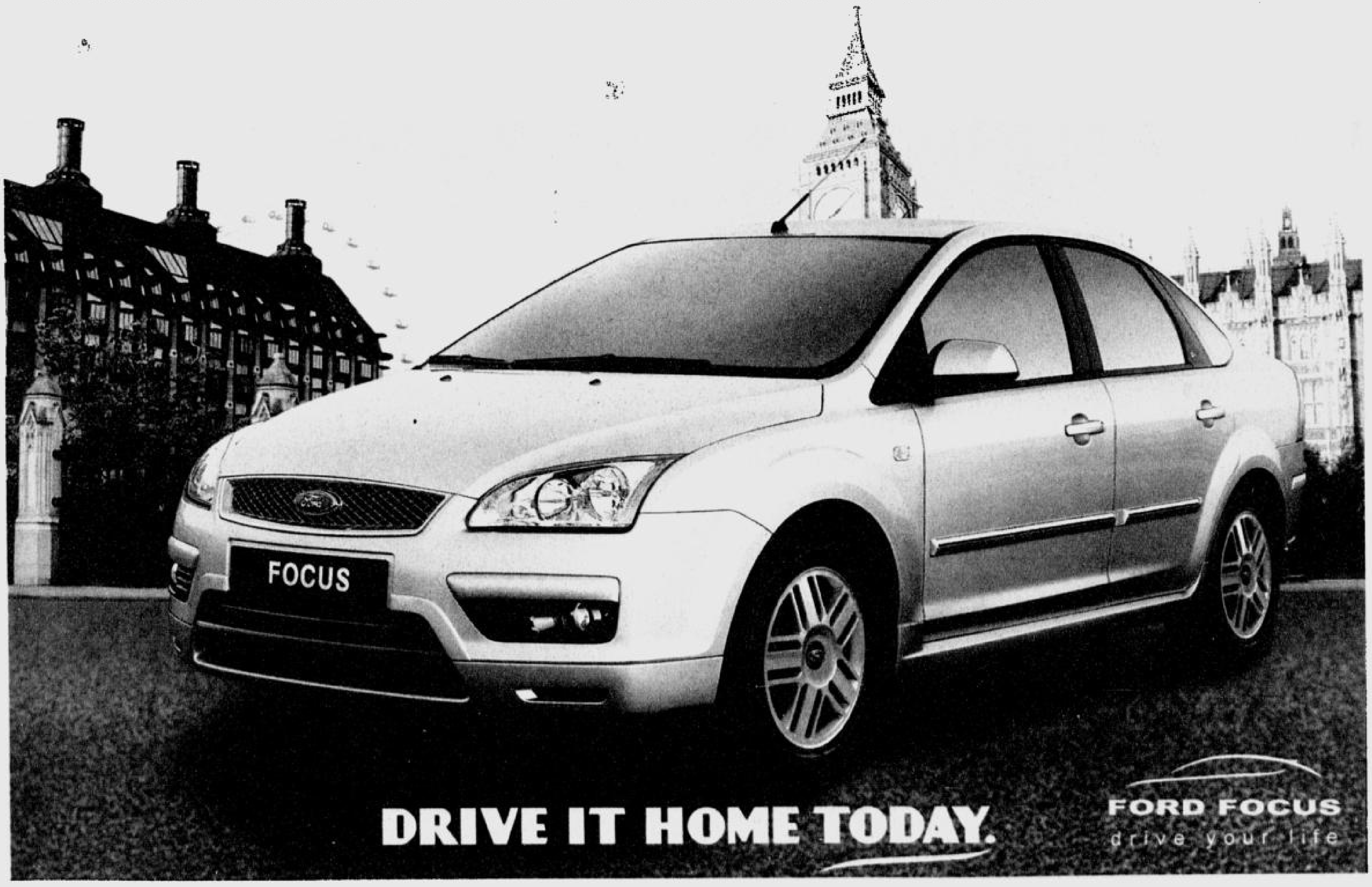

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Per DTI-NCR permit no.5789, series 2005

WTO and the Big Noise

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

AN IMPORTANT EVENT IS HAPPENING in the next three months. From Dec. 13 to 18, the WTO will hold its 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong. There they will finalize the consensus points in the ongoing talks on agriculture, industry, services, intellectual property rights and other trade related concerns under the WTO's Doha Development Round (DDR).

Former Sen. Wigberto E. Tañada, the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) lead convenor, challenges our government negotiators "to take a bold stand in the forthcoming ministerial by asserting our national interest, consistent with the supposed development thrust of DDR."

In its published common agri-fishery agenda approved by its 39 member federations and organizations, the Alyansa Agrikultura states: "Oppose all tariff reductions in a sector until that sector has a level playing field." This is achieved "through the appropriate elimination of subsidies from other countries and the provision of the appropriate competitiveness enhancement mechanisms for our farmers."

Background

Several empirical studies have shown that in general, the WTO has benefited the developed countries and caused harm to developing countries. At the WTO December meeting, our Philippine negotiators should remind the developed countries of the WTO's guiding preamble:

"Trade and economic endeavor should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, and ex-

WTO/B5

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) SUBSTATION INCLUDING 3 SECONDARY FEEDER CIRCUITS METERING/MONITORING STATION AND PERIMETER FENCE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will require the construction of a 5 MVA Power Transformer Substation, having a primary input voltage of 69 KV and a secondary voltage of 13.2 KV Wye, 3 - Phase 4 Wire Wye System, to include the installation of High Voltage Circuit Breakers and Secondary Metal Clad Switch Gears Protection and Metering/Monitoring Station. Likewise, construction of power take-off for the Secondary 13.2 KV Structure per feeder and the primary 69 KV structure.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **TWENTY SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS & 20/100 ONLY (P27,195,590.20)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (60 KV / 13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Feeder Circuits"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (60 KVA / 13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Feeder Circuits", Metering/ Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on October 10-17, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building on or before October 24, 2005.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00).** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **October 25 - 31, 2005** during office hours.

6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **November 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of **Twho Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Pesos & 90/100 (P271,955.90)** and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Six Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Pesos & 75/100 (P679,889.75)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**

8. Completion of the Works is required by 120 calendar days.

9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062)992-0409 (062)993-0209
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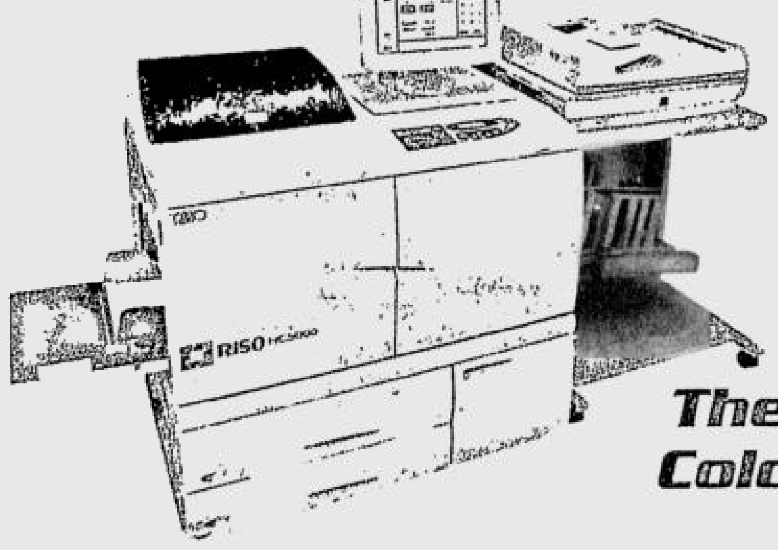

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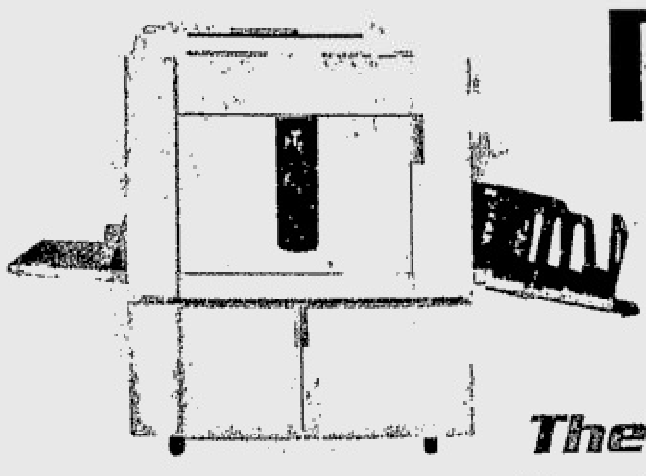

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Mike's SEC-resistant cousin

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DESPITE THE OWNER's old-rich roots and his being a cousin of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, LBC Development Bank of Carlos "Linggoy" Araneta has been habitually negligent in complying with the annual reportorial requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to a certification issued by the SEC, LBC Bank has consistently failed to file with the corporate regulator the thrift bank's annual financial statement for 1997, 1998, and from 2001 to 2004.

LBC Bank also failed to file a general information sheet from 1996 to 2001 and in 2003.

(Cocktales sent two emails to LBC Bank seeking its comment but it has not responded as of this writing.)

The thrift bank, which had planned an overseas listing along with its popular courier service company, has had serious auditing problems with its two external auditors—Joaquin Cunanan and Guzman, Bocaling & Co.—in recent years.

In the 2003 financial report, Guzman, Bocaling red-flagged its audit report on the bank by saying, "They were not able to apply sufficient auditing procedure to satisfy themselves regarding the bank's due from other banks and due from branches/head office accounts."

"The Bank's accounting records did not provide adequate reconciliation to support its Due from other banks and Due from branches/head office accounts amounting to P409,006,721 and P75,533,244, respectively," Guzman, Bocaling said.

Guzman, Bocaling added that the previous auditor, Joaquin Cunanan, had raised the same auditing concerns in the immediately preceding two financial periods.

Guzman, Bocaling noted that LBC Bank and the Bangko Sentral signed a September 2003 memorandum in which the thrift bank promised to "address all identified weaknesses in risk management and internal control system," including the immediate infusion of fresh capital to comply with the P325-million minimum capital requirement and the reduction of exposures to borrowers whose loan balances exceeded the single borrower's limit and Dosri within the required ceilings.

Lately, the thrift bank has ratcheted up its advertising exposures, heralding what it claimed to be its much-improved financial ratios. The figures submitted by the bank to the Bangko Sentral also tended to support the recovery claim.

Court pokes into Victoria's secrets

THE COUNTRY'S newest billionaire, corporate lawyer Victoria delos Reyes, has been ordered by the probate court to provide a "true inventory and appraisal" of the wealth bequeathed her by her late childless aunt, Pacita Ongsiako delos Reyes-Phillips.

A legal ethics lecturer, Delos Reyes claimed that her aunt left only about P100 million worth of cash and properties, as against the conservative estimate of P2-3 billion given by the surviving spouse to the Makati Regional Trial Court.

In a Sept. 23 order, Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo also reminded Delos Reyes as executrix to secure prior court approval before selling, mortgaging or encumbering the assets of her aunt, a prewar Miss Philippines, lawyer and businesswoman.

Phillips left an American husband, a retired doctor whom she met in the Philippines after World War II, who is now claiming his conjugal half through lawyer Vicente Chuidian.

Now in his late 80s, Dr. Phillips returned to the United States in the early 1960s. Despite their separation, the Phillips couple remained cordial to each other and even maintained a business relationship, with regular money transfers between their respective bank accounts in the United States until Pacita's death in March, according to the widower's counsel, Vicente Chuidian.

It was one of the accounts, according to Chuidian, that Delos Reyes emptied of about $400,000 without first informing the US tax authorities about the death of the account owner.

Money-go-round

- THE MANILA Golf Club has indefinitely deferred the inauguration of nighttime golf in the country's most exclusive country club in deference to Malacañang's energy conservation program.
- THE LEASE of Goodwill Bookstore at Glorietta will expire in three years, and the three-floor space is up for grabs. In the meantime, Goodwill is trying to sublease the space to other tenants to make up for the bookstore's worrisome retail slack.

Heard through the grapevine

FIL-ESTATE'S Noel "Toti" Cariño has acquired 50 percent of the Manila Times from the family of publicist Dante Ang.

Cariño will assume the chairmanship of the daily broadsheet starting tomorrow, while the presidency, currently occupied by Enrique Locsin, will be turned over to Ang's son, currently the paper's EVP.

Locsin is expected to go full-time into helping to revive his own family's terminal Free Press magazine.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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LRT2 'Ride and Dine' at Gateway Food Express

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LRT2 fare from Gateway Mall Food Express in Araneta Center with the LRT2 "Ride & Dine" promo.

The LRT2 "Ride & Dine" gives commuters the opportunity to receive instant freebies simply by availing themselves an LRT2 Stored Value Card worth P100.

Upon purchase of an LRT2 Stored Value Card from any of the stations in LRT2, passengers will get an Araneta Center Kit, which includes a Food Express Frequency Card.

The Food Express Frequency Card entitles a customer to get a free food item from participating Gateway Mall Food Express outlets for a minimum purchase of P150. The Food Express Frequency Card has a total of 10 offers each with free food items worth P350.

Participating food outlets are Burger King, Taco Bell, Wendy's, Jumbo Japs, Big Chill, Cebu Fiesta, KFC, Wendy's, Dimsum and Dumplings, Inihaw Express, Better Than Ice Cream and Pizza Hut.

Gateway Food Express is located at the 3rd Level of Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's flagship shopping, food and leisure destination. It features a wide selection of dining options and remains open from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m. to accommodate late night diners.

So, get more out of your LRT2 rides with free giveaways from Food Express. The LRT2 "Ride and Dine" promo is ongoing until Oct. 19.

1ST AYALA GREENFIELD INVITATIONAL CUP

The Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna, together with The Bellevue Manila, Smart Infinity and Sony Ericsson, holds its first-ever Ayala Greenfield Invitational Cup this Oct. 16. The tournament takes place at the Ayala Greenfield Estates' newly completed 18-hole, all-weather championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. The event also marks the official opening of the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club. The tourney culminates in a dinner and awards program at The Bellevue Manila, the finest business hotel south of Metro Manila. Shown are executives from Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club, The Bellevue Manila, Philippine Realty Global Marketing, and Jayelles Holdings: standing are Ador Benito, Edwin Pages, Johnny Chan, Patrick Chan, and Dustin Chan. Seated are Ryan Chan, Johnny Litton, Laurent Lamasuta, and Jimmy Munoa.

PSBank first to launch innovative ATM screens

TIMELY AND MEANINGFUL ANNOUNCEMENTS on ATM screens will soon greet PSBank customers with the launch of a new Software Delivery Management System (SDMS) that will allow the bank to update its ATM screens from a central location.

"Our goal was to create a system that would maximize the potential of PSBank's ATM screens as a timely communication tool. The new system allows us to change the look and content of any ATM screen while the old system, which is still used by other banks, required us to update screens by going to each ATM site. It is, therefore, more cost efficient and flexible", PSBank president Pascual M. Garcia III said.

"Our ATMs can now provide added value to our customers by conveying updated information on PSBank products, services and even promos, rather than just dispensing cash or paying bills. Other PSBank information that can be flashed on the ATM screen are properties for sale, financial highlights of the bank, significant bank events and vacancies. The messages can even be multi-lingual," Garcia III said.

Prior to SDMS, it would take 2 to 3 months to update the ATMs of the entire branch network nationwide. All software and graphic updates were done manually using diskettes or CDs. A site visit was necessary to install the updates. For a bank with a large ATM network, these activities cost a lot and entailed a long period to implement.

The new SDMS system takes a much shorter period to update at a lower cost. The screen download takes less than a minute per branch and can be done for a single branch, selected branches or for the entire network.

The SDMS also has a module to help the bank retrieve electronic journals (EJs) from the ATMs immediately, making response to customer needs faster and more efficient.

"In today's competitive market, there is a need for more creative and effective use of the ATM channel. With SDMS, PSBank now has an automated process of sending software updates to all ATMs in the network. This is part of the bank's thrust to deliver better services to our clients," Garcia III said.

2GO OPENS 3RD INVITATIONAL SHIPPERS' BASKETBALL LEAGUE

2GO, the freight group of Aboitiz Transport System, recently held the opening ceremonies of its 3rd Invitational Shippers' Basketball League at the San Andres Sports Complex, in San Andres, Manila. The 3rd Invitational Shippers' Basketball League is in celebration of successful business partnerships and also a way of thanking the partners, according to Susan Valdez, 2GO executive vice president and CEO of freight during her opening speech. The basketball competition was participated by 2GO partners and clients, including Ben Line Agencies, China Shipping, Evergreen Philippines, Hanjin Shipping, Megabird Forwarder, Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), NYK, Ofsi, Red Bull, San Miguel Corp, Simon Enterprises, Wallem Shipping, and Wan Hai Shipping. Also joining the basketball competition is another Aboitiz company, SuperFerry. Special guests included Manila Sports Council chair and president Ali Atienza and TV personalities D'Bodies.

Review for realty broker's licensure exam

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection has scheduled another licensure examination for real estate brokers on Nov. 27. Successful examinees will qualify for licensing as real estate brokers.

In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate released today the schedule of its incoming Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review that should be taken for a complete preparation for the DTI-supervised broker's licensure examination.

The Tuesday section is scheduled on Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8 and 15, while the Thursday section would be on Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3 and 10 and the Saturday section would be on Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5 and 12 all with same time of 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday sections would be held at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City while the Thursday section would be held at Max's Restaurant, Second Level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

The CRES will cover the following topics: DTI rules and regulations, real estate finance, economics and accounting, National Code of Ethics, subdivision development, problems on subdivision development, real estate appraisal, real estate assessment, real estate taxation, taxation, problem solving with E-VAT, site verification and survey, legal aspects of sale, mortgage and lease, fundamentals of property ownership, guide on Pag-Ibig Housing Loans, CARL with RA 7279 (UDHA), HLURB rules with ecology and zoning, condominium concepts, documentation and registration, and real estate brokerage practice.

Lawyer Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, the same team that produced a record passing rate of 92 percent, will lead experts and authorities in their respective field on the lectures on subjects prescribed by DTI.

Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant, was 1st and 8th placer in the realty appraisers and brokers board exams, respectively. He was recognized as a Real Estate Fellow by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For registration or more information, interested parties can call 681-0928 or text 0916-4269174 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

HOMECREDIT, CEBU MITSUMI MOA SIGNING

HomeCredit Mutual Building and Loan Association recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Cebu Mitsumi Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. HomeCredit is engaged in providing a unique savings program to help employees own their home. It also offers unique and affordable home financing products that suit all types of budgets. Signing on behalf of HomeCredit is president Ronnie B. Alcantara (2nd from right) and for Cebu Mitsumi Multi-Purpose Cooperative is its chair Rey de Paz (2nd from left). Witnessing the signing were HomeCredit vice president-sales Victor Emmanuel G. Martinez (left) and HomeCredit Cebu branch head Zheryll T. Cruz (right).

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the the privatization of the following:

360 MW Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Ramon, Isabela

(the "*Asset*") The Asset is being privatized on an "*as is where is*" basis

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5 00 p.m on October 14, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*") Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of one thousand U.S Dollars (U.S. $ 1,000.00) (the "*Participation Fee*") The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5 00 p.m. on October 18,, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9 00 a m to 5:00 p m) from October 17, 2005 until October 20, 2005 at 5 00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	October 10 - December 12, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	October 25, 2005, 2 00 p m at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	To be announced to interested bidders at a later date by PSALM

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to six million U S Dollars (US$ 6,000,000) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr Froilan A Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm gov.ph

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made Interested parties and bidders are required to comply with Philippine law at all times Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes

(Sgd) RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--September 28, 29 & 30, 2005)

Bits Clips

Healthy Options, J&J partnerships

IN A BID TO INTENSIFY THE AWARENESS OF FILIPINOS against diabetes, the country's premiere health food store Healthy Options teams up with healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson to launch Sugar/Check-an information campaign on the prevention and management of the debilitating disease. About 5 million Filipinos suffer from diabetes but half are not aware that they have it. With the Healthy Options' Sugar/Check campaign, the company recently sealed its partnership with LifeScan, a Johnson & Johnson company that pioneered the second generation of blood glucose monitoring systems with its One Touch blood glucose meters. The Sugar/Check campaign is ongoing until Oct. 29. Healthy Options customers will get free glucose screening from 4 to 7 p.m. at its designated stores at Shangri-la Plaza in Mandaluyong (Oct. 2 and 29); SM Megamall (Oct. 8); SM City North Edsa (Oct. 9), SM City Pampanga (Oct. 15), Rustan's Supermarket, Makati (Oct. 16), Festival Supermall, Alabang (Oct. 22) and SM City Manila (Oct. 1 and 23).

WPPP photo tilt

PARTICIPANTS TO THE WEDDING AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGraphers of the Philippines (WPPP) Photo Congress 2005 have the chance to win big prizes in two wedding photo contests. Participants must be registered delegates to the WPPP Photo Congress 2005, to be held from Oct. 9 to 11 at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, in order to join the Kodak Candid Theme (bride and groom with entourage) and Canon Environmental Theme (bride and groom only-urbanscape, landscape or seascape) photo contests. Entries must not have been published, exhibited and won awards. Deadline is Sep. 30, 5 p.m. Entries can be submitted to WPPP at 35 P. Tuazon Street, Cubao, Quezon City. For details, call the secretariat at 410-5561, 0917-7438949 or 0921-2913120, or log on to www.photocongress.com.ph.

Alcuaz artworks

AYALA MUSEUM PRESENTS THE LAST SET OF A 3-PART EXhibition titled "Passionate Eyes: Federico Aguilar Alcuaz". This show features works by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, a well-traveled distinguished Filipino artist who is a lawyer by profession. Presented in three sets to showcase the artist's stylistic development, "Passionate Eyes" was curated by Dr. Rod Paras-Perez. The third set is composed of 60 artworks that include portraits, abstract paintings, landscapes, and tapestries. The artworks were selected from the collection of two of the artist's most passionate collectors: Benjamin Gayubar of Barcelona, Spain, and Eddie and Norma Chua of Quezon City. "Passionate Eyes" will be or view until Oct. 2. Ayala Museum is located at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Streets, Makati. It is open Tuesdays to Fridays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.); Saturdays to Sundays (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.). For more information, call 757-7117 to 21.

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CURRENCIES

September 29, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830565	1.000000	56.1830
Japan	Yen	0.007343	0.008841	0.4967
United Kingdom	Pound	1.468355	1.767900	99.3259
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107040	0.128876	7.2406
Switzerland	Franc	0.642752	0.773874	43.4786
Canada	Dollar	0.708008	0.852442	47.8927
Singapore	Dollar	0.490935	0.591086	33.2090
Australia	Dollar	0.628311	0.756487	42.5017
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.203148	2.652590	149.0305
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221384	0.266546	14.9754
Brunei	Dollar	0.489489	0.589345	33.1112
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000096	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020184	0.024301	1.3653
UAE	Dirham	0.226195	0.272339	15.3008
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204000	67.6443
Argentina	Peso	0.285173	0.343348	19.2903
Brazil	Real	0.369797	0.445236	25.0147
Denmark	Kroner	0.134021	0.161361	9.0657
India	Rupee	0.018898	0.022753	1.2783
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220355	0.265308	14.9058
Mexico	New Peso	0.076532	0.092145	5.1770
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567869	0.683714	38.4131
Norway	Kroner	0.127834	0.153912	8.6472
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013912	0.016750	0.9411
South Africa	Rand	0.129371	0.155763	8.7512
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000964	0.0542
Sweden	Kroner	0.106633	0.128386	7.2131
Syria	Pound	0.016000	0.019264	1.0823
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024988	0.030086	1.6903
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000387	0.000466	0.0262

WTO …

From page B2

panding the production of and trade in goods and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, seeking both to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development."

It appears this has been more rhetoric than a reality in WTO. This is why the DOA ministerial conference in November 2001 proclaimed that its main objective was to put the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the WTO's work program. Since then, not much has happened.

The FTA states: "It is clear that the one-size-fits-all liberalization model of globalization is at the root of global, regional and national inequalities and the stark poverty hounding many in developing countries, the Philippines in particular."

Key issues

We identify three issues that our government negotiators should address and win in the coming ministerial meeting for agriculture.

The first is the special and differential treatment (SDT) clause, which is central to the WTO Doha Declaration. SDT appears to be relegated into the background for this meeting. We should make it a main guiding principle for the negotiations. SDT means that a developing country should have the flexibility to formulate its own trade regime that supports its development needs. This includes the upward or downward recalibration of tariffs when warranted by the nation's requirements for agro-industrial development, job preservation and expansion, and poverty eradication.

The second is that we should win agreements on specific terms in the areas of special products (SPs) and special safeguard measures (SSMs). Agriculture Undersecretary Sigfredo Serrano has exercised admirable international leadership fighting for these agreements in the alliance of 33 countries (G33). With the G33 and us behind him, we can win for the developing countries the flexibility to define our own sensitive products with the appropriate screening criteria and the provision for the corresponding special safeguard measures.

For fisheries, we should reject the imposition of maximum bound tariff rates covering our sensitive fishery products. We should also reject the proposal that fishery products, as well as all other products covered in the WTO's non-agricultural market access agreement, be imposed bound tariff rates two times our current MFN applied tariffs. This ignores our country's existing low tariffs resulting from our earlier unilateral tariff liberalization.

Need for unity

To survive, we need to engage in international trade. When developed countries cannot get what they want from the WTO (which has been happening recently), they resort to bilateral trade agreements. Since they have more power than us, they often end up winning and us losing in the trade negotiations. It is therefore to our advantage that we use WTO as the venue where developing countries can band together and tilt the balance of power in our favor.

In pursuit of this objective, Jeremy Hobbs and Shalimar Vitan, Oxfam International executive director and Philippine policy officer, respectively, met with agriculture and industry leaders last month to plan the "Big Noise" campaign in the Philippines. Its theme is: "Make trade fair."

The Alyansa Agrikultura is sponsoring a forum on this campaign open to the public (both agriculture and industry) at no charge at 3 pm Oct. 6 in the Philippine Social Science Center Conference Room at Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. For more information on this forum and the Big Noise Campaign, please call Cyd Arcena at 926-44-15. With this Big Noise coming from over 200 countries through this 10 million signature campaign to make trade fair, it is hoped that the WTO Ministerial Meeting this December will finally make WTO responsive to the WTO preamble and the development thrust of the Doha Declaration.

(The author is the former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

PRULINK **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 27, 2005	Last Week September 20, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.27476	1.27072
Managed Fund - Peso	1.38239	1.37074
Growth Fund - Peso	1.04151	1.01830
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1480	1.1429

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE **UNIT PRICES (in Php)**

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	September 26,2005	September 19,2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.053968	1.051036
Balanced Fund	1.036316	1.036053
Equity Fund	0.995911	1.001830

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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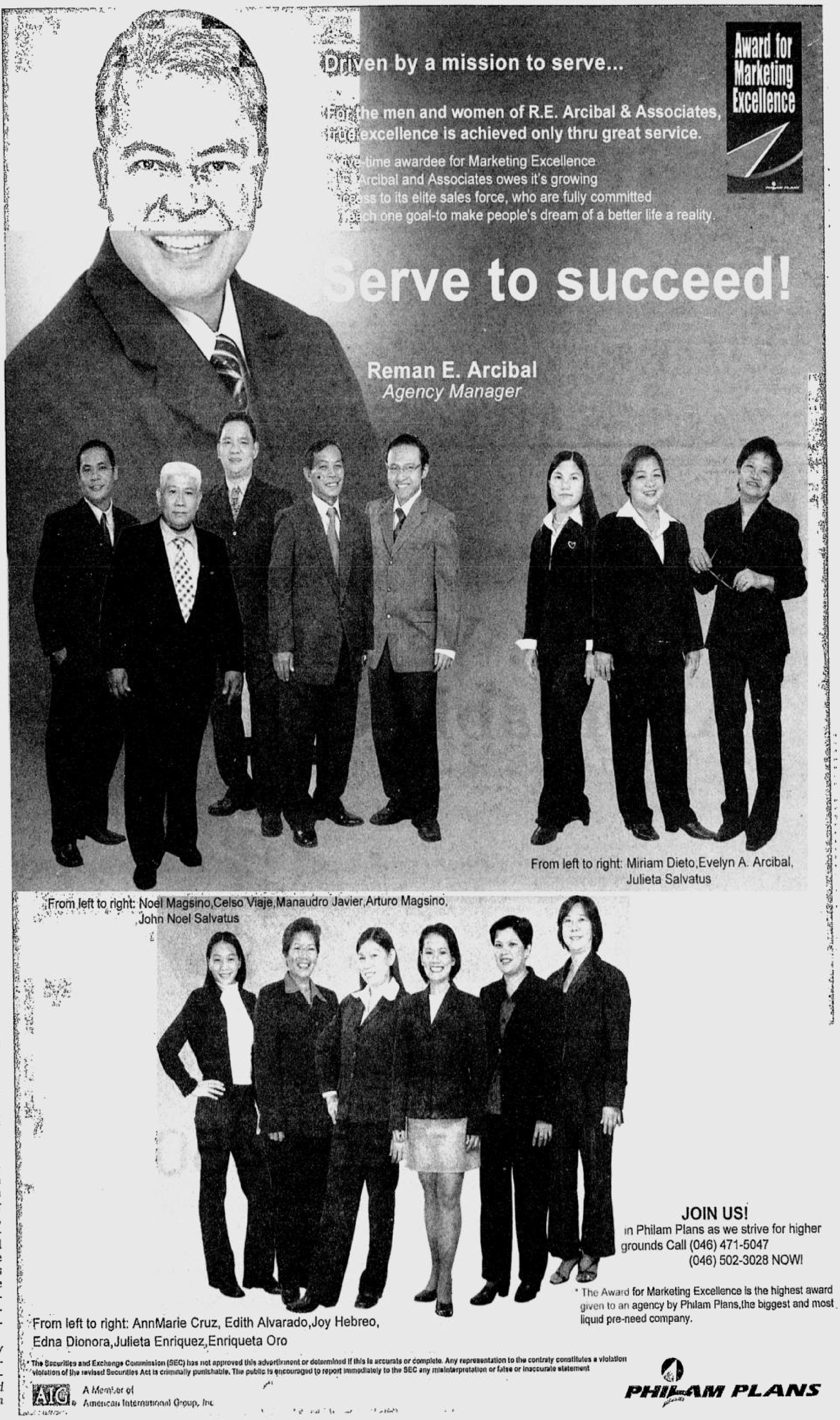

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ING bullish on RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

DUTCH FINANCIAL giant ING has turned bullish on the Philippines, but said sustained investor interest would hinge on fiscal improvements and political stability.

"For the rest of 2005, we are bullish on Philippine debt paper due to the scarcity value and high yield. These factors become more important now that we have likely gone past dangers to political stability," said ING economist Joey Cuyegkeng in an economic and policy report dated Sept. 15.

He said the government's lower borrowing requirement for 2006 was creating the scarcity of these IOUs.

ING Bank expects the country's 2005 budget deficit to hit P172 billion or 3.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

He said the government would likely go on a spending spree this year, but with "mild" expenditure restraint, a 2005 deficit of P165 billion was still feasible.

He said rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's would continue to look for proof of government's resolve to implement the value added tax, and further cut fiscal deficits.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	9,685,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53.5	52.5	53	96,900
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	1,310,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	49	49	1,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	256,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	234,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	70
Manulife Financial Corp.	2920	2920	2920	2920	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	390,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	141	140	141	3,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2055	2050	2055	630
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	33,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	2,490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	760	760	760	26,280
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	42,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.05	6,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	9,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	645,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1690	1700	1690	1695	376,420
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	990,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.016	55,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	100
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.75	21.75	142,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	4,779,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	816,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	810,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.9	9	8.9	9	645,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	70,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.9	625,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	304,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	37.5	37	37	446,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	80,000
San Miguel Pure Foods A	55	56	55	56	200
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65	66	85,600
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	93.5	93.5	48,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	700
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	297.5	292.5	295	17,920
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	56,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	4,262,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	66,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	3,800,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	2,229,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	108,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	341,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	80,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	42	42	890,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	300,000
Ionics, Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	796,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	5,950,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	310,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	221	217	219	50,860
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	870,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.78	0.74	0.77	640,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	5,850,000

SEE PAGE B7

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Continued from Page B6

Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.52	3,553,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	143,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	6,187,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.2	1.46	1.2	1.46	16,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.165	0.175	8,180,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,500,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	33,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,784,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	456,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	160,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	6	5.8	6	365,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	11,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	32,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	54,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.92	6,260,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	6,014,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	25.5	25.5	1,456,400
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	173,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	47,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	400,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.4	70,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	2,310,000

Taipan to need ₱35B for UIC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GROUP OF taipan John Gokongwei Jr. will need roughly P35 billion to fund the possible takeover of Singapore office developer United Industrial Corp. (UIC), according to brokerage ATR Kim Eng Securities.

JG Summit Holdings Inc.'s Singapore unit, Telegraph Development Ltd., recently raised its stake in UIC to 29.97 percent 29.783 percent.

Under Singapore rules, shareholders that own 30 percent of the outstanding shares of listed firms are required to buy the rest of the company.

Sources in the company declined, however, to comment whether the group of Gokongwei will take over UIC.

UIC has controlling interest in Singapore Land, one of the biggest office developers in Singapore's central business district.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

REMINDER

By virtue of its authority under the Corporation Code, the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier revoked the certificates of incorporation that failed to comply with its reportorial requirements.

The details of the revocation were spelled out in the Orders published in 2003 and 2004 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, namely:

Year of Incorporation of Covered Corporations	Date of Order	Date of Publication	Date of Revocation
1936-1996	22 April 2003	25 April 2003	26 May 2003
1967-1975	27 May 2003	02 June 2003	02 July 2003
1976-1984	08 July 2003	11 July 2003	11 August 2003
1985-1991	20 August 2003	28 August 2003	29 September 2003
1992-1995	30 September 2003	04 October 2003	03 November 2003
1996-1997	10 February 2004	14 February 2004	15 March 2004

If the affected corporations want to continue their operation, they have **THREE YEARS** from the date of revocation within which to file with the SEC a motion to Lift the Order of Revocation. Otherwise, the revocation shall become final and executory.

The corporations that do not want to have the revocation set aside are advised to wind-up their operation within the same period in accordance with the Corporation Code.

The list of corporations is posted the website, www.sec.gov.ph. For confirmation, interested parties may call Asst. Director Gerardo del Rosario at 724-87-38, or visit the SEC Company Registration and Monitoring Department at 3rd Floor, SEC Bldg., EDSA, Mandaluyong City, or any SEC Extension Office in the provinces.

(Sgd.)BENITO A. CATARAN
Director
Company Registration and Monitoring Department

(PDI-Sept. 30, 2005)

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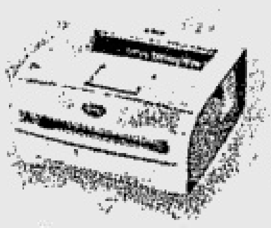

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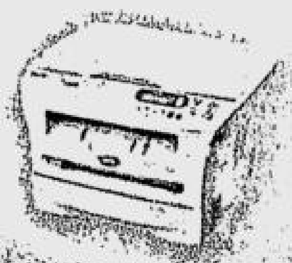

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given the estate of the late JULITA C. BAUTISTA has been extrajudicially settled by her legal heirs as per Doc No. 62 Page No. 14 Book No. VII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City
(PDI-Sept 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NG SENG LAO has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 215, Page No. 20, Book No. XXII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Jose V. Marcella of Pasig City.
(PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2005)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT
From Earl Roy Del Rosario

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Various Services

1. **Janitorial Services**
2. **Security Services**
3. **Freight Forwarding Services**

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Fund 101 intends to apply the following amount being the Approved Budget for the contract of the aforesaid services, to wit:

1. Janitorial Services	—	Php 3,800,000.00
2. Security Services	—	Php 9,600,000.00
3. Freight Forwarding Services	—	Php 5,500,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the aforesaid services. Delivery of services starts from January 1 to December 31, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold the following schedule for Pre-Bid Conference.

		DATE/TIME	PLACE
1.	Janitorial Services	Oct. 14, 2005/ 2:00 P.M.	LTI Library, East Ave., Quezon City
2.	Security Services	Oct. 14, 2005/ 4:00 P.M.	LTO Library, East Ave., Quezon City
3.	Freight Forwarding Services	Oct. 12, 2005/ 2:00 P.M.	LTO Library, East Ave., Quezon City

The following are the schedules of the Bid Conference wherein the Bids and eligibility requirements should be delivered:

		DATE/TIME	PLACE
1.	Janitorial Services	Oct. 26, 2005/ 2:00 P.M.	LTO Library, East Ave., Quezon City
2.	Security Services	Oct. 26, 2005/ 4:00 P.M.	LTO Library, East Ave., Quezon City
3.	Freight Forwarding Services	Oct. 24, 2005/ 2:00 P.M.	LTO Library, East Ave., Quezon City

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%)
3. Surety bond	Two and a half Percent (2-1/2%)
4. Foreign government gurantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bids shall be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the aforesaid address.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC Chairman

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan, Chairman – BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077
(02) 9269882

Annabella A. Cruz, Chairman – BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – Telefax

(PDI – September 30, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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SALES AGENTS 09178463228

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Please call 6453426; 6454681; 09178989535

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of UNIDEN PHILIPPINES LAGUNA, INC. shortening the term of its existence up to September 30, 2005 thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having claim against said corporation are requested to present the same at 25 Binary St., Light Industry and Science Park (LISP) Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) YASUTAKA SAGIYAMA
President

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

American Trust Professional Services is in urgent need of
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to do trading and financial services:
Kindly email resumes at
americantrustproaol.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Office Sec.23-30 yr. good Eng.
Col Graduate, Single,lnkg.o 890-6270

MALE/FEMALE

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For HOPE WORLDWIDE Email Resume
at rmm_727@yahoo.com

INTERIOR DESIGNERS Com.
Lit. Apply Dorothy's Beauty
Central Greenhills 7213187
10-6pm Fresh Grad Welcome

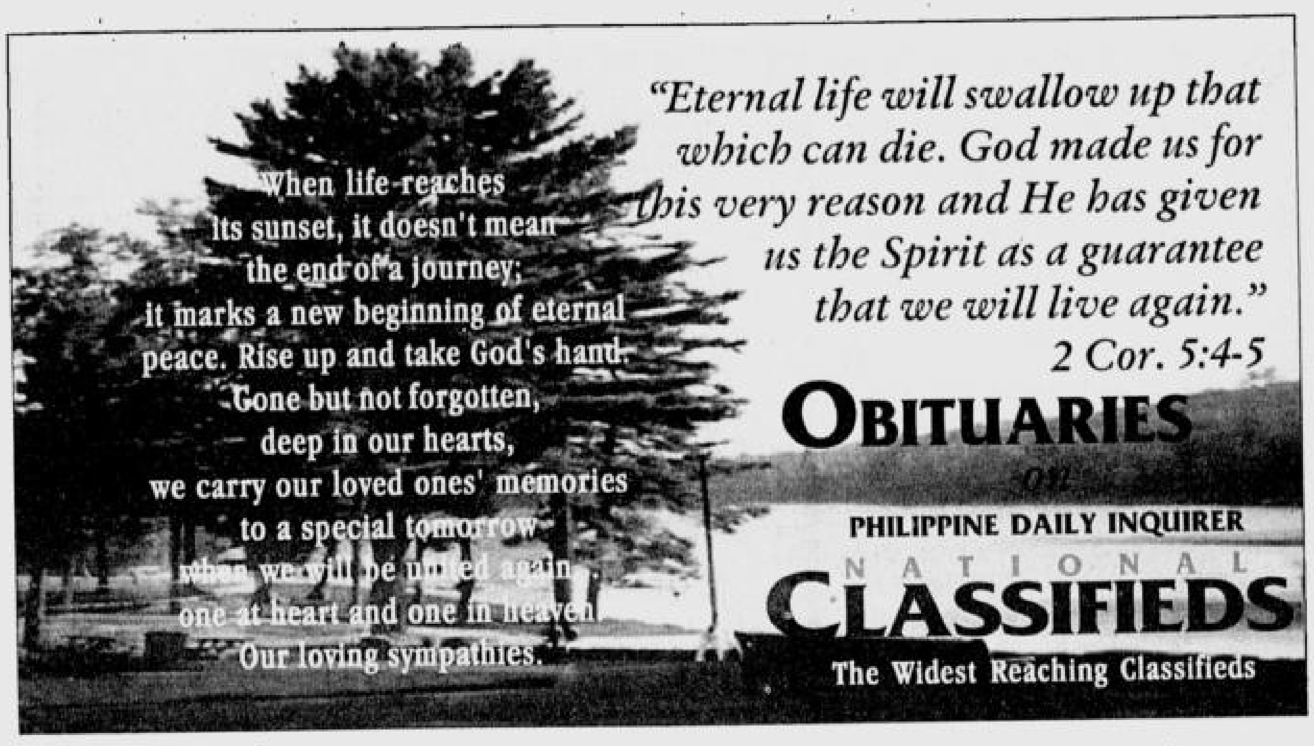
Sales Exec. 21-30yr. good Eng.
Col. Graduate aggressive,lnkgo 890-6270

WANTED: SALES REP COLLEGE DEGREE W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY ENTERSKY TRADING, INC. 241-4441 / 242-2404

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
820-1592 / 825-9947

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440


When life reaches
its sunset, it doesn't mean
the end of a journey;
it marks a new beginning of eternal
peace. Rise up and take God's hand.
Gone but not forgotten,
deep in our hearts,
we carry our loved ones' memories
to a special tomorrow
when we will be united again,
one at heart and one in heaven.
Our loving sympathies.
"Eternal life will swallow up that
which can die. God made us for
this very reason and He has given
us the Spirit as a guarantee
that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5
OBITUARIES
on
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

EDGARDO MARCELO-MURILLO

February 13, 1918- September 16,2005

has found lasting peace and joined his Creator
last Friday, September 16.

In line with his wishes, his remains was cremated soon thereafter, last Saturday, September 17

His wife, **+Araceli**, and sons, **Edgar** and **Arnold**; and sisters, **+Eden** and **+Eny**, request the reader to honor his memory and pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated tomorrow at 2:30 PM Saturday, October 1 at Lourdes Church on Amoranto St. (Retiro St.) Laloma, QC.

CLASSIFIEDS

Vietnam rice arrives in Tabaco

A TOTAL OF 251,478 bags Vietnam rice were recently unloaded at Tabaco City port according to National Food Authority Region 5 director Danilo Pastrana. Vessel MV Van Don 02 arrived with 121,100 bags while MV Thanh Son had 130,378 bags. Both started unloading operations on Sept. 4. The rice stocks classified as 25 percent brokens, will be allocated to the different provinces in the Bicol region, namely, Albay - 90,000 bags; Camarines Norte - 15,000 bags; Camarines Sur - 70,000 bags; Catanduanes - 50,000 bags; Masbate - 35,000 bags; Sorsogon - 11,000 bags, A regional buffer of 25,478 bags will be deposited in the regional warehouse in Legazpi. The unloading operations went efficiently, thus, another record of despatch is being expected as a result. Despatch is the monetary value of savings derived from the completion of unloading operations earlier than schedule. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines), through the General Appropriation Act and the AFP Modernization Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of ***Four Hundred Eleven Million, Three Hundred Two Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos*** (Php 411,302,400.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of the Night Fighting System for the Philippine Army. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the NIGHT FIGHTING SYSTEM consisting of:

LOT	PARTICULARS	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	ABC
1	Night Vision Monocular	1,440	Php 350,665,460.00
2	Infrared Aiming Device	1,440	55,036,800.00
	Laser Zeroing Device	181	5,600,140.00
		TOTAL	Php 411,302,400.00

3. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 210 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Extension Secretarial and Inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday excluding Holidays. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 30,000.00) for LOT 1 and *TEN THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 10,000.00) for LOT 2. The method of payment will be in cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND/AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 13, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, November 16, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at 10:00 AM on November 16, 2005. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
9. Only bids from manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretarial, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (A copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Extension Secretarial
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Modernization Program Management Office
3rd/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 6481
Telefax No: (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
Email: cmidmpmo@yahoo.com
Website: www.info.com.ph/-afpmod

(Sgd) UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F SANTOS
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI – September 30 & October 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5 J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1 The *Davao City Water District* with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the printing of *DCWD Wall Calendars 2006*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

1 Lot/Package - Supply labor & Materials for the printing of DCWD Wall Calendars 2006 as follows: ABC: *Php 500,000.00*
1) 26,000 pcs - Medium Size, 17" x 22"
2) 1,000 pcs. - Large Size, 22" x 34"

Delivery of the GOODS is required by Dec. 21, 2005. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights of privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of *P1,500.00/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 21, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.*

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *November 4, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash* or *Manager's check* and in the amount of *P5,000.00*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8 Bid opening shall be on *November 4, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9 The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 (6000)
Email Add. dcwd@water.gov.ph
Fax No. 224-5392
Website www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairwoman

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID

For the disposal of

3 units deepwell pumps & 46 pcs. riser pipes

For details visit or call North Susana Executive Village, Commonwealth Avenue, Old Balara, Diliman, Q.C., Phone 932-3333.
Deadline of Sealed Bid submission
5 p.m. October 7, 2005

(PDI – Sept. 30, 2005)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RO 10-2005-001, Regional office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05 Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services
Revised on : July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority, Region 10*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Trucker/ Hauler owners/ operators/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Contracts for the Supply of Trucking/ Hauling Services
Location : Cagayan de Oro City NFA Owned/Contracted Warehouses to NFA Bukidnon, Lanao Norte, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin Warehouses
Brief Description : Contract involves the hauling of bags of Rice from NFA Cagayan de Oro City to designated destinations.
Source of Rice Stocks : NFA Cagayan de Oro City Owned/ Leased Warehouses

CONTRACT NO.	DESTINATION PROVINCE/ WAREHOUSE	ESTIMATED VOLUME IN BAGS OF 50 kg	MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRUCKS REQUIRED	MINIMUM NET LOAD CAPACITY (BAGS) REQUIRED	RATE/ BAG OF 50 kg	APPROVED BUDGET CEILING
	BUKIDNON					
1	GID AGLAYAN MALAYBALAY	6,000	3	1,200	P 17.05	P 102,300.00
2	GID VALENCIA VALENCIA	6,000	3	1,200	P 19.25	P 115,500.00
3	GID MARAMAG, MARAMAG	8,000	3	1,200	P 22.00	P 176,000.00
	LANAO NORTE/					
4	GID BARAAS, ILIGAN CITY	26,000	7	2,800	P 14.85	P 386,100.00
5	GID LALA, LALA	7,000	3	1,200	P 24.20	P 169,400.00
	MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL					
6	GID GANGO, OZAMIS CITY	30,000	8	3,200	P 30.80	P 924,000.00
	CAMIGUIN					
7.	LAKAS FLGC, MAMBAJAO	27,000	5	2,000	P 27.50	P 742,500.00

Contract Duration · Contracts No. 1-6 upon completion of the contracted volume but
Delivery Period not to exceed thirty (30) days upon receipt of Notice of Award Contract No. 7 not to exceed ninety (90) days upon receipt of Notice of Award

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2nd Floor, Region 10, Regional Office NFA Bldg., Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Sept. 26-Oct. 03, 2005	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 6, 2005	10:00 AM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 25, 2005	10:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 25, 2005	10:05 AM
5. Bid Evaluation		Oct. 26-Nov. 03, 2005	
6. Post-Qualification		Oct. 26-Nov. 03, 2005	
7. Notice of Award		Nov. 07, 2005	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (P2,500.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The ***National Food Authority, Region 10*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 23 & 30, 2005)

CREBA-HUDCC annual convention to be held at Tagaytay Highlands

EXCLUSIVE AND LUXURIOUS TAGAYTAY Highlands will host the annual convention jointly held by CREBA and HUDCC on Oct. 13 and 14, dubbed as "CREBA: Linking the Best of the Philippine Property and Tourism to the World." Choy Alas, chair of the 2005 convention, said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Tagaytay Highlands, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for local and international stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market. Foreign speakers have been lined up to provide first hand information on the various opportunities and trends awaiting to be tapped by both local and foreign investors. Interested participants may call CREBA Secretariat at 373-2270 to 75.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
CREBA-HUD
NATIONAL CONVENTION
Linking the Best In

MOA SIGNING between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (CREBA) for CREBA-HUDCC National Convention at the Tagaytay Highlands, Tagaytay City scheduled on October 12 to 24. Seated from left Rosemarie C. Basa, EVP-Creba; Efren Choy L. Alas, Over All Convention Chair; and Roger Garcia, PR Chair Committe and Jesse Francis N. Rebustillo, Classified Ads Division Head.

TGK-asia Consultancy Services

TGK-Asia Consultancy Services provides firms with remote staff to solve specific problems. Our goal is to become the number one provider of remote staff for project based solutions in Southeast Asia.

We are currently looking for Call Center Agents for the following supports:

- **Customer Service**
- **Telemarketing**
- **Technical Support**

Requirements:

- Relative experience in Customer Service, Technical Support or Telemarketing preferred but not required
- Strong interpersonal, listening, verbal communication skills
- Exceptional English language verbal communication skills and the ability to have meaningful conversations with any level of client contacts
- Excellent written skills in English
- Demonstrated ability to work with documentation to resolve customer problems
- A high level of energy, self-motivation, competitiveness, and desire to make an impact.
- Must be a self starter, should bring a high level of energy and integrity to the role, and display creativity in developing solutions and codifying offerings.
- Highly trainable and good work attitude
- Must be willing to work graveyard shifts

Desired Skills and Experience:

Technical background in data communications & telephony
Process Documentation
A working knowledge of the high-technology B2B industry

Send your resume to **recruitment@tgk-asia.com** or visit our website at **www.tgk-asia.com**.
Only qualified candidates will be notified. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) requires the construction of a 69 KV sub-transmission line from structure number 21 of PERMEX transmission line in Ayala to ZAMBOECOZONE First Industrial Park, with a total distance of 4.4 circuit kilometer, in a 65-footer pre-stress concrete poles in a vertical construction standard utilizing silicon post insulator in a 336.4 ACSR conductor. Likewise, installation of a circuit breaker and disconnect switches at TRANSCO Tulungatung tapping point, to include line rehabilitation of PERMEX Line Structure #11 to Structure 21.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO & 64/100 PESOS ONLY (15,061,622.64)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on October 13-19, 2005** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before October 26, 2005.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **October 27 - November 2, 2005** during office hours.
6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **November 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 23/100 Only (P150,616.23)** and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Three Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Pesos & 56/100 (376,540.57)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
8. Completion of the Works is required by Ninety-Two (92) calendar days.
9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract, award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

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- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least 6 years sales management experience in real estate / insurance / retail industry
- Excellent negotiation, leadership and communication skills

Sales Manager
- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least 2 years sales management experience in real estate / insurance / retail industry
- Excellent negotiation, leadership and communication skills

Sales Consultant
- Graduate of any course
- Experience in real estate / consumer sales is an advantage
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Fresh graduates are most welcome to apply

Marketing Manager
- Graduate of related four year course
- With at least 5 years extensive experience in the fields of marketing – product dev't and special events to enhance corporate and product image
- Knowledgeable in formulating annual marketing plan, strategies, and budget
- Excellent negotiation, leadership and communication skills

Business Development Manager
- Graduate of Business Course
- With at least 5 years extensive experience preferably in the same field
- Knowledgeable in overseeing the financial, technical, marketing and sales-related aspects of the project

Business Development Officer
- Graduate of Business Course
- Excellent communication and analytical skills
- With extensive experience in conceptualizing projects for development, conducting feasibility studies and market research

Leasing Manager
- Graduate of Business - related course
- With extensive experience in leasing in commercial / residential, retail industry
- Knowledgeable in overseeing commercial operations / implementing policies

Junior Artist
- Graduate of Fine Arts or related course
- Knowledgeable in graphic design programs (PageMaker, Photoshop, Freehand), events set-up and photography

Proof & Control Officer
- Graduate of Accounting CPA license
- Knowledgeable in bank reconciliation

Other Career Opportunities also open for the following :
Finance and Accounting, Human Resources and Development, Technical, Customer Service

We offer competitive, above-standard compensation, intensive training and development programs, and highly dynamic work environment.

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ALABANG, INC.

Recruitment Department,
Filinvest Marketing Office
Corporate Avenue,
Filinvest Corporate City,
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Call 809-6517 to 22
recruitment@filinvestcorpcity.com

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), is seeking for **Family Planning Coordinators** for the following areas: Baguio, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Batangas, Rizal, Iloilo, Cebu, Leyte, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga City, Misamis Oriental/CDO, Agusan Del Norte/Butuan City and Socksargen.

The overall scope of this position will be valuable to PRISM's goal of developing the motivation and capacity of the private sector to be involved in family planning, specifically in implementing family planning in the workplace, developing the market for products and expanding private practice for family planning services.

Qualifications:

- College degree holder with post-graduate study an advantage
- Familiarity with the area and its political infrastructures
- Familiarity with the Family Planning Program and Contraceptive Self-Reliance Initiative Program
- Exposure to NGO FP programs an advantage
- Appreciation of family planning program success factors
- Ability to develop good working relationships with various sectors and associations
- Work experience includes positions requiring leadership skills, as well as integrative and strategic thinking
- Residence in the area is preferred.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter (indicating the preferred project area) and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph or send to:

PRISM Office, 23rd Floor, Wynsum Corporate Plaza
22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Deadline for the submission of application: 7 October 2005.

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
POLICY CENTER

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center is one of the Centers for Research and Management Excellence of the Asian Institute of Management. It is the public policy think tank of the Institute founded on the tenet that a vibrant business sector leads to social and economic progress. The Center is committed towards enhancing the overall competitiveness of the Philippine business environment through public policy reform. In this regard, we would like to invite qualified applicants to fill-in the following positions:

Full-Time Program Managers and Project-Based Researchers

Main Tasks:

- Formulate and lead the implementation of the Center's research agenda and activities;
- Identify directions and develop new areas of relevant expertise for the Center; and
- Foster effective linkages with policy makers, business leaders, NGOs, academe, research organizations, and media groups.

Successful candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Masters degree in Economics or Public Administration
- Outstanding ability to identify pressing policy issues relevant to competitiveness;
- Excellent writing, analytical, and communication skills;
- Proficiency in drafting project proposals, policy notes, and briefing papers;
- Effectively manage resource requirements for the Center's events and research output
- Proven team leadership.

Interested applicants can email their curriculum vitae at aimpolicycenter@gmail.com or fax us at 751-9182 to 83. Due to the urgency of the above requirement, deadline of submission of CVs is on **7 October 2005.**

CALL POEA

24-HOUR HOTLINES

722-1144
or
722-1155

TRIPMART

TRAVEL AGENCY
Is in need of the following for immediate hiring:

(2) RESERVATIONS/TICKETING STAFF
must be a graduate of Tourism or HRM course, must be knowledgeable in Galileo, Abacus or Amadeus and must possess good oral and written Communication skills.

(2) SALES AND MARKETING STAFF
must be a graduate of any business or marketing course, must possess excellent sales skills, must have good oral and communication skills and must have a pleasing personality.

If you think you are qualified, apply personally at
Unit 4-G Ground Floor, Classica 1 Bldg., 112 HV Dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Nephrology group's 7th midyear confab set Oct. 2-4

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Nephrology -- Central and Eastern Visayas Chapter will host the society's 7th Midyear Convention on Oct. 2-4 at the Mactan Shangri-La Island Resort and Spa, Cebu. With its theme "Stones Bones and Nephrons," The convention will have an eminent roster of speakers, namely, Drs. David Bushinsky of the International Society of Nephrology, professor of Medicine and of Pharmacology and Physiology, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Hugh Feidhlim Woods, Claver Ramos, Katsushi Koyama, Dennis Serrano, and Delia Bayog.

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LEAD STEAM TURBINE ENGINEER
(Engineering and Maintenance)

- A degree in BSME with a valid RME / PME professional license
- Extensive experience in the engineering, maintenance, control and optimization of steam turbines, their auxiliary systems and associated balance of plant.
- Must possess supervisory and management experience i.e. team management, staff development etc.

PERFORMANCE / EFFICIENCY ENGINEER
(Technical Office)

- Registered Electrical or Mechanical Engineer
- Must have knowledge and hands-on experience of plant performance tests, equipment efficiency testing, optimization, and monitoring
- Preferably have exposure/experience with IPP (independent power producers)
- Must have knowledge of quality control (ASME, API, ANSI codes)

PURCHASING MANAGER

- Graduate of BSEE or BSME preferably with a valid REE or RME professional license
- With extensive experience in procurement, logistics, inventory, cost management and/or import regulations in Power Plant Industry or any related field
- Extensive supplier network base in the energy sector.
- Proven track record in commercial negotiations
- Excellent negotiator

Requirements:
Must have at least 5-10 years related work experience preferably gained from a coal-fired or thermal power plant
Possess excellent organizational skills
Preferably between 25 - 45 years of age
Fluent in English

Interested applicants may submit their CVs to:
STEAG State Power Inc.
The HR Manager
Honasan Hall, PHIVIDEC Compound
Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan
Misamis Oriental 9001 or
Vía e-mail:
careers@steagstatepower.com

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF UNDERTAKING A REVENUE RESET FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND ANY FUTURE CONCESSIONAIRE THEREOF FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2010 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY UNDER TRANSMISSION WHEELING RATE GUIDELINES (TWRG)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-041RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicants.
x------------------------------x

ORDER

On September 22, 2005, applicants National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) filed an application for approval of a revenue reset for TRANSCO and any future concessionaire thereof for the period 2006 to 2010 under the Transmission Wheeling Rate Guidelines (TWRG).

In the said application, TRANSCO and PSALM prayed for the approval of, among others, its proposed: a) Regulatory Asset Base (RAB); b) Capital Expenditure (CAPEX); c) Operating Expenditure (OPEX); and d) Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC). A determination by the Commission of the said proposals leading to a revenue reset would pave the way for revised/adjusted rates to be authorized TRANSCO to charge its customers.

In compliance with Section 4 (e), Rule 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9136, TRANSCO and PSALM submitted together with the said application the following: a) Certification signed by the Honorable Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to the effect that a copy of the instant application was furnished the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Quezon City; b) Acknowledgment stamp receipt by the City Secretary's Office of Makati to the effect that a copy of the instant application was furnished the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati City; and c) Affidavit of Publication signed by Ms. Lourdes C. Diaz – Classified Ads Manager of the *"Philippine Daily Inquirer"* attesting to the fact that the instant application was published in its August 30, 2005 issue.

Finding said application sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for public hearing, particularly for expository purposes, on the following dates and venues:

1. October 17, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. October 18, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City ; and
3. October 20, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City.

Thereafter, another set of public hearings for presentation of evidence by both applicants and oppositors/intervenors is hereby scheduled as follows:

1. November 8, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. November 10, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City; and
3. November 11, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Considering the complexity of the issues to be subjected to public consultation, the following procedure shall be enforced by the ERC:

I.) All interested parties may submit their written comments/oppositions (soft copies may be sent to info@erc.gov.ph) on the application not later than November 18, 2005.
II.) Parties who have filed their written comments on or at least manifested their intent in writing to participate in the proceedings before the date of the scheduled expository public consultation would be given priority in participating in the said public consultations.
III.) Parties of record are not required to be represented by a lawyer but are strongly advised to have technical experts with knowledge of accounting, finance, economics, engineering and pricing issues present with them during the public consultation.

TRANSCO is hereby directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2x) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

Let copies of the application, this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The evidence on the actual publication of the Notice of Public Hearing consisting of affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by TRANSCO and PSALM on the date of the initial hearing.

Moreover, TRANSCO is hereby directed to:

1.) furnish a copy of this Order and the Notice of Public Hearing to all Distribution Utilities and its directly connected customers not later than October 7, 2005;
2.) post a copy of this Order and Notice of Public Hearing, not later than October 7, 2005, in: a) its Main Office; and b) Branch Office/s;
3.) publish the Notice of Public Hearing in at least one (1) newspaper of local circulation within each of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao region at least a week before the first set of scheduled public consultation in the respective regions; and
4.) undertake other possible means of disseminating information to the public relative to the above scheduled public consultation on the instant application.

In the meantime, TRANSCO and PSALM are hereby directed to submit the documents enumerated in a list herein attached as Annex "A", within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, September 28, 2005.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.
Chairman

(On Official Travel)
OLIVER B. BUTALID
Commissioner

(Sgd.) JESUS N. ALCORDO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) RAUF A. TAN
Commissioner

(Sgd.) ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN
Commissioner

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2005)

NATURAL RESOURCES MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Sustainable Development through Responsible Mining Practice

DENR Compound Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9286837 / 9286765 / 9286874 • Telefax : 9286760

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation (NRMDC) has postponed its invitation to all interested investors, both local and foreign, to apply and submit sealed bid proposals for the exploration, development and mining operations of the NRMDC's Dinagat Nickel-Chromite Project under a Joint Venture (JV) partnership.

The **Eligibility Forms (EF)** for pre-qualification of bidders shall be available at the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, starting **October 3, 2005**, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and shall be submitted to and registered with the NRMDC Office not later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 13, 2005**. Bidders shall be notified on or before **October 24, 2005** as to the list of qualified bidders who can secure the **Terms of Reference (TOR).**

The **TOR** shall be made available to qualified bidders, also at the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, starting **October 24, 2005**, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP10,000.00.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** shall be held on **October 28, 2005** at Sulo Hotel, Matalino St., Quezon City, at 2:00 p.m., during which the promotional/geologic kit shall be made available to all prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$3,000.00 or Php170,000.00 in Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation (NRMDC).

Sealed Bids Proposals shall be submitted to and registered with the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box not later than 2:00 p.m. on **December 12, 2005. Late bids shall not be accepted**.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution.

The NRMDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to the NRMDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for the NRMDC's action.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA A. ALFONSO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
City of Tacurong
Tel # 064-200-4050/3156-SKTSI and Tel # 064-477-0327-PLDT

INVITATION TO BID

1.) The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) is inviting all interested accredited suppliers to tender their bids on "MATERIALS ONLY" for the line construction of the project below.

Item	Barangay	Length of Lines (Km)		
		1Ø	UB	OS
1	Expn. - Brgy. Malisbong, Palimbang, Sul. Kud.	5.090	4.156	1.445

2.) Deadline for the submission of sealed bid for Materials only is on October 10, 2005

3.) Submit sealed bids to:
The Chairman
Pre-Bids and Awards Committee
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
City of Tacurong

4.) SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative.

5.) Interested bidders may obtain the Bill of Materials and further information from the **FOD** or Engineering Department of Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.

(Sgd.) ENGR. DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI-Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 2005)

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www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF UNDERTAKING A REVENUE RESET FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND ANY FUTURE CONCESSIONAIRE THEREOF FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2010 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY UNDER TRANSMISSION WHEELING RATE GUIDELINES (TWRG)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-041RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicants.
x------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicants National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) on September 22, 2005 of an application for approval of a revenue reset for TRANSCO and any future concessionaire thereof for the period 2006 to 2010 under the Transmission Wheeling Rate Guidelines (TWRG).

In the said application, TRANSCO and PSALM prayed for the approval of, among others, its proposed: a) Regulatory Asset Base (RAB); b) Capital Expenditure (CAPEX); c) Operating Expenditure (OPEX); and d) Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC). A determination by the Commission of the said proposals leading to a revenue reset would pave the way for revised/adjusted rates to be authorized TRANSCO to charge its customers.

The Commission has set the said application for hearing, particularly for expository purposes, on the following dates and venues:

1. October 17, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. October 18, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12: 00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; and
3. October 20, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City.

Thereafter, another set of public hearings for presentation of evidence by both applicants and oppositors/intervenors is hereby scheduled as follows:

1. November 8, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. November 10, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City; and
3. November 11, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments taking into consideration the abovementioned deadlines. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours or download the same from the Commission's website at www.erc.gov.ph.

Considering the complexity of the issues to be subjected to public consultation, the following procedure shall be enforced by the ERC:

I.) All interested parties may submit their written comments/oppositions (soft copies may be sent to **info@erc.gov.ph**) on the application not later than November 18, 2005;
II.) Parties who have filed their written comments on or at least manifested their intent in writing to participate in the proceedings before the date of the scheduled expository public consultation would be given priority in participating in the said public consultations; and
III.) Parties of record are not required to be represented by a lawyer but are strongly advised to have technical experts with knowledge of accounting, finance, economics, engineering and pricing issues present with them during the public consultation.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorables **JESUS N. ALCORDO, RAUF A. TAN** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 28th day of September, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) MARIA TERESA A. R. CASTAÑEDA
Executive Director III

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID

Jollibee Jollibee Foods Corporation will conduct a **SEALED BIDDING** on **AS IS WHERE IS BASIS** involving following various equipments, like;

Manufacturing – Bread making line, Form-fill-seal & filling machines, Meat grinder, Extructor, Packaging conveyor w/ hoist, etc.
Refrigeration System – Chiller/Freezer/Blast storage, panels w/ insulation, Spiral & Tunnel blast freezer, etc.
Power Supply System - Gensets, Transformers, Switch gears, etc.
Air/Steam/Water Supply - Boilers, Air compressors, Centrifugal blowers, Deep well, Pressure tanks, Water tank, Waste water system, Water distribution system, etc.
Office Eqpt. – PABX communication system, Auto-CAD on-line printer

All interested parties are encouraged to do the following:

1. **Registration & Ocular Inspection** – October 3 to 14 except Saturday & Sunday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location Site: Commissary Plant #578 F. Pasco Ave., Bgy. Santolan , Pasig City
2. **Pre-Bid Meeting** – October 17, 2005 at 9:00 am
Venue : 32nd floor Jollibee Plaza Building Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To register, secure guidelines & lists, and conduct ocular inspection of all items before the scheduled pre-bid meeting. Registration ends on Oct. 14, 5 pm.
2. To attend the pre-bid meeting before submission of sealed bids. Bid forms and dismantling plan template shall be distributed during the pre-bid meeting.

JFC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAYBE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMPANY, THE DECISION OF THE COMPANY IS FINAL & BINDING.

For Inquiries: Please call 646-6303, look for Ms. VILMA SANTOS GAPAN

(PDI-Sept 30, Oct 1 & 2, 2005)

GLOBE G CASH

enables convenient utilities payments

Text message
To 2882
BILLPAY 1800
1234 MERALCO
12345678000000008
Options
Close

The Filipino consumer can say goodbye to long lines, cut-off periods and the frantic rush to get bills paid on time, thanks to Globe G-Cash. By transforming the mobile phone into a virtual wallet, the service eliminates the need for over-the-counter payments, and facilitates commercial transactions at the speed of a text message – making bills payment faster, safer and easier than ever before. With the Globe G-Cash mobile wallet, subscribers can settle their dues, wherever and whenever they want.

Globe G-Cash facilitates bills payments for 17 utility companies and service providers, and is continuously expanding its roster of partners. In addition to the existing telco (G Plan, Globelines), water (Manila Water, Maynilad), electricity (Meralco) and insurance (Philamlife, Prudentialife) partners, G-Cash payments will soon be accepted in the following establishments: Ayala Life, Ayala Plans, PruLife UK, Pacific Internet, Virtual Asia, Surf Shop, Vision Unlimited, Destiny Cable, Mozcom, and Mindgate.

Apart from making purchases and payments, Globe G-Cash also enables Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers to send and receive local or international remittances, transfer cash values from phone to phone, and reload prepaid phone credit. Since its launch in October 2004, more than 800,000 registered subscribers have experienced a variety of G-Cash transactions in nearly 4,000 partner establishments and outlets, both locally and worldwide.

With more establishments and institutions across industries expressing interest in adapting m-commerce to their services, Globe remains confident that G-Cash will continue to transform and enrich Filipino lives everyday.

For more information, text INFO BILLPAY to 2882 or call the G-Cash Hotline at 2882.

USE G-CASH FOR BILLS PAYMENT NOW!

1. Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers can gain access to a variety of m-commerce services when they register for G-Cash. To register, simply text "REG <desired 4-digit M-PIN>/<mother's maiden name>/<first name>/< last name>/<address>/<telephone number>" and send to 2882.

2. Subscribers must have enough G-Cash in their mobile wallet to pay for their bills. Cash can be converted to G-Cash at all Globe Business Centers, Globelines Payment & Services Centers, Hubs, SM Deprtment Stores and Globe G-Cash Palitan Centers nationwide.

3. To use G-Cash for bills payment, text "BILLPAY <amount> <M-PIN> <institution code> <account no./ATM or Phone ref. no.>" and send to 2882.
(For institution codes, see box on the right.)

Bills Payment Institution Codes

CURRENT PARTNERS		UPCOMING PARTNERS	
G-PLAN	GPLAN	AYALA LIFE	AYALALIFE
GLOBELINES	GLINES	AYALA PLANS	AYALAPLANS
MANILA WATER	MANILAWATER	DESTINY CABLE, INC.	DESTINY
MAYNILAD	MAYNILAD	SURF SHOP	SURFSHOP
MERALCO	MERALCO	MINDGATE	MINDGATE
PHILAMLIFE	PHILAMLIFE	MOZCOM	MOZCOM
PRUDENTIALIFE PLANS	PLPI	PACIFIC INTERNET	PACNET
		PRU LIFE OF UK	PRULIFE
		VIRTUAL ASIA, INC.	VASIA
		VISION UNLIMITED	VU

We've given each of our partners

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

More than just freight

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

YOU SEE THEIR trucks plying the streets of Manila. Those who live in the southern part of the Metropolis are most familiar with them because many of their clients are located in the industrial estates of Cavite and Laguna.

The trucks are painted white with the name Exel in blue in simple font. Most who see the trucks have no idea what the name stands for nor what are inside the trucks.

The firm's website best describes what the company is about: "The work of Exel touches many aspects of our day-to-day lives, across the globe, 24 hours a day. As you sleep, Exel is delivering the food that you buy and the petrol that drives your car that we help build and service. As you go about your daily routine, your mobile phone, personal computer and household electronics have been touched by our teams and our solutions to ensure that you have the choice and efficiency that today's world demands. When crisis comes, our solutions support the medical care you receive and ensure the prescriptions you need are waiting for you and your family.

"With around 111,000 employees in over 135 countries worldwide, our solutions to a wide range of manufacturing, retail and consumer industries are supported by highly skilled people and leading-edge technology."

Merger

Exel was born from the merger of two major European groups—Ocean Group Plc and NFC or the National Freight Consortium. In the Philippines, the Ocean Group had a subsidiary—MSAS Global Logistics, a freight forwarding firm, which has been in operation in the country since 1985. In 2000 it was, renamed Exel Logistics Management Philippines Inc.

Exel has an annual $11 billion worldwide turnover.

From being a relatively quiet firm with vast logistical and freight resources, the firm is now adopting a more high-profile stance to market its services and introduce what they are all about.

"We handle the raw materials needed by a plant. We do the ordering, receiving and storing in the warehouses. We do pre-manufacturing activities like mixing powder and adding the dyes for soap. We sometimes deliver as finished goods and sometimes we store even the finished products," explains Jojo Diaz de Rivera, Exel's senior manager for business development.

Consultative approach

Sometimes Exel does secondary packaging for promotions like when a company has a buy-one-take-one offer, they do the twin packs.

exel
www.exel.com
creating new va

THE LOGISTICS firm might soon find itself under new owners as Deutsche Post makes an offer.

Although their business in the Philippines has been largely freight because of MSAS, Jojo says they are now adopting a more "consultative approach" to selling their business.

He admits freight is a highly competitive business.

"It is highly commoditized, meaning you pay a price per weight and time to deliver. We are looking for areas where we can provide more value," he states. "We are developing tools to help show where we can differentiate ourselves and provide consultancy for the supply chain.

Specifically, Exel provides tactical, strategic and inventory optimization in supply chain management. Tactical refers to helping companies determine how big a warehouse they need, and how many people are needed.

Strategic refers to the network design and transport routing of goods and equipment.

"Our end goal is to serve the needs of other firms," Jojo adds.

Exel country director Michael Buckley acknowledges that drawing up the correct systems for a firm involves access to its vital data. But he assures that even if they are not hired for the entire scope of the job, their contracts always carry a confidentiality clause.

Buckley says they are in the middle of talks with several firms, for new services.

Two major retailers are eyeing Exel to take care of their inventory management.

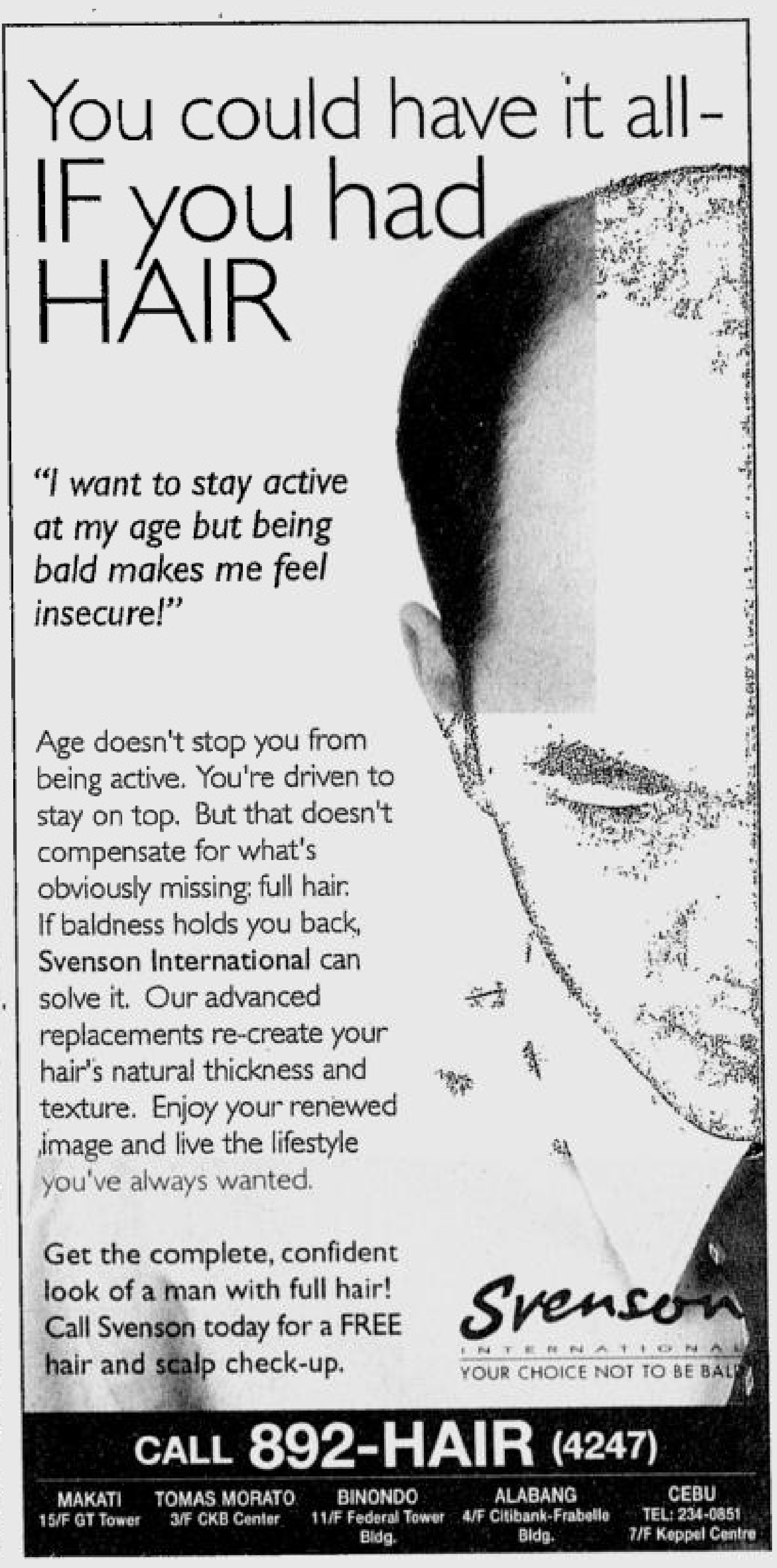
This means Exel will tell the firms how much to buy of what. "But it is not up to us to tell them what not to buy," Michael Buckley states. This is usually the job of the company's merchandiser.

For another retailer, Exel is working out how one warehouse can become the drop-off point for thousands of goods such that these same goods can be delivered to the different branches within the day these were received.

Michael says the market for logistics management has been growing by double digits every year especially in the consumer retail sector. Exel had 300 employees five years ago, today it has 800.

It is Michael's job to oversee the 800 employees and at the

MORE THAN/ B2-2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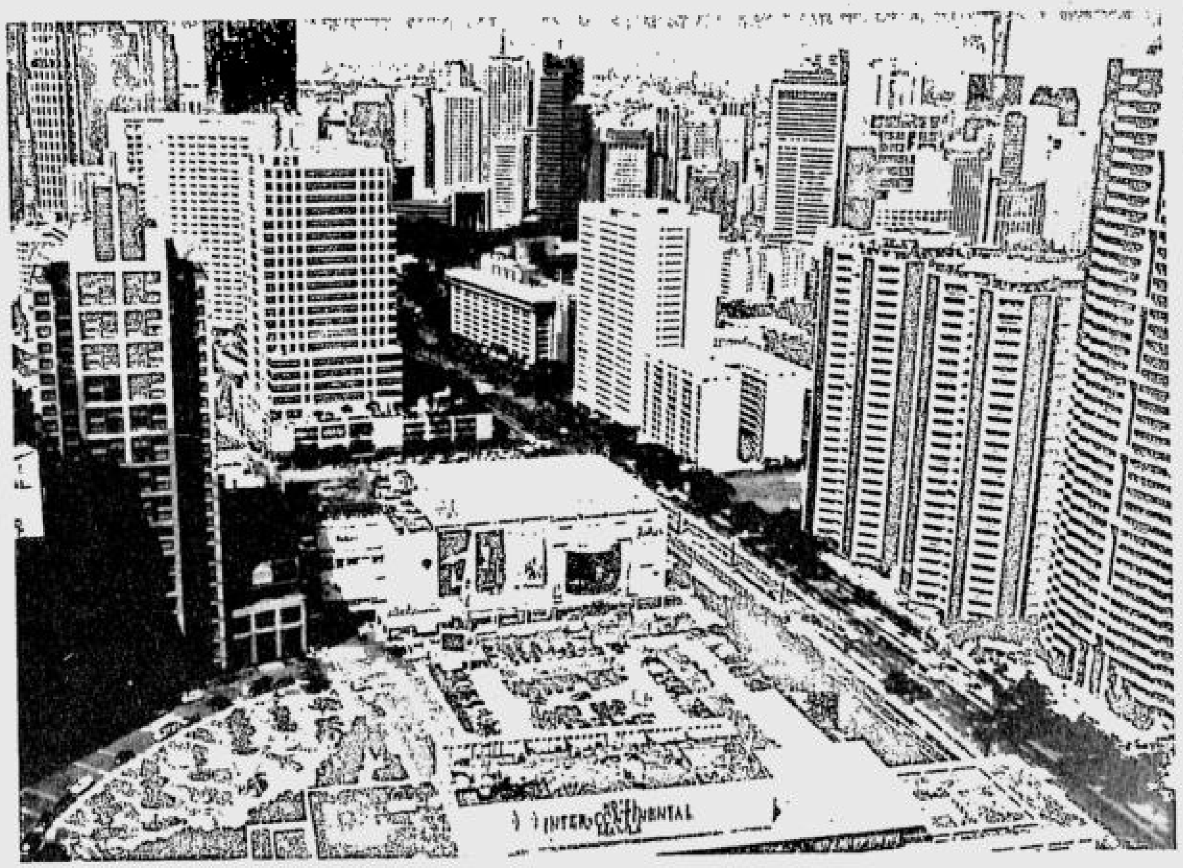
The 'little' barangay that could



ONE PART of Barangay San Lorenzo, the Makati Central Business District.

MEMBERS of the Barangay San Lorenzo board

A BARANGAY IS TRADITIONALLY perceived as a small political unit that oversees community affairs in a mostly residential area.

But when a barangay is all of 270 hectares, is located at the heart of the Makati Central Business District (CBD), earns about P100 million in taxes and clearances, and has jurisdiction over the likes of Ayala Center, Makati Medical Center, at least 14 headquarters of the top 100 corporations, embassies, three renowned schools and four major hotels—that certainly is no small barangay.

Barangay San Lorenzo in Makati City encompasses all of the above—and more. While some people think that this barangay only includes San Lorenzo Village, it actually covers the whole area bound by Edsa, Ayala Avenue (Ayala Center side), and Pasong Tamo up to Mantrade.

Realizing the magnitude not only of the area but the potentials of further developing it and maintaining its current status as one of the richest barangays in the country, the officers of Barangay San Lorenzo mobilized the Barangay San Lorenzo Business Association (BSLBA). BLSBA is a nongovernment, nonstock, nonprofit membership organization represented in the Makati Liga ng mga Barangay Business Development Council.

"Prodded by a memorandum from the city government of Makati enjoining barangays to organize their respective business associations to cultivate a strategic partnership between the public and private sectors that would stimulate and promote business, we buckled down to work," says Barangay secretary Ernie Moya, who initially headed the board of trustees together with Veredigno Atienza of Shoppers Paradise Realty, Severo Santillana of Standard Insurance, and Jesus la O' of JDO Construction.

Later, other businesses operating within the barangay were invited to join. At present, the association board is headed by its chairman, Ana Maria Tanchanco, president of Taters Enterprises, joined by Ma. Corazon Lopez of Assumption College, Marlene Po of the European International School, Liza Guillermo of Metrobank, and Bgy. Chairman Jay Santiago as ex-officio member

Gov't and business do mix

"Often we have this notion that government and business do not mix. Many businessmen perceive government as cause of delay, of red tape, etc. With BSLBA, we want to synergize all efforts between the private and public sectors to effectively serve the needs of the business community," Tanchanco declares.

About 8,000 registered businesses in this barangay may now look at BSLBA as a channel of change in the area. Of these, 36 percent are categorized as large, including leaders in trading, banking, telecommunications, oil, and real estate. The bulk of these are small and medium-size service and retail enterprises and these are the SMEs that BSLBA primarily focuses on to represent in the government.

"The market coverage is overwhelming—from the renowned multinationals to the micro-entrepreneurs. We also want to encourage a big brother-small brother relationship, where assistance from big businesses like PLDT or Ayala in terms of know-how can be facilitated to help the smaller ones," Tanchanco adds.

Among BSLBA's priority projects are promoting business interactions through forums for discussion and exchange of relevant business and community information; putting up effective training programs for improvement of business skills; and most importantly, encouraging corporate social responsibility.

In 2004, the barangay earned P94 million from business clearance and real property tax income alone. This year, just from January to May, the income has already reached about P51 million, a clear indication that business in the area is burgeoning. Barangay Vice Chair Bernie Atienza, also confirms this. "There is about 60 percent increase in the number of businesses operating in the area this year."

Prompted by news that Quezon City is set to establish its own CBD and the fact that some manufacturing companies are transferring to the outskirts of Manila like Sta. Rosa in Laguna to consolidate their operations, Santiago says BSLBA is all the more inspired to work together and "keep it together."

"The barangay gives its full support because we want to remain at the top, we want to keep this competitive edge of being the core area of business in the country. And we can only do this if we are sure that the stakeholders—the businesses operating in the area—have a close partnership with us," says the 29-year-old Santiago.

He stresses that both the barangay and BSLBA have trained their sights on this objective. A master plan for instance, to be drawn up by architect Jun Palafox, is set to reinvent the community to make it attractive to both business and urban dwellers. In this master plan, the inputs of the stakeholders have been carefully solicited.

Government and business do mix. At least, in Barangay San Lorenzo.

SC looks beyond VAT yoke

Jose A. Osana
and Jean G. Pantaleon
SGV & Co.

(Second of two parts)

TAX-FILES

THE SUPREME COURT RULING on substantive issues:

(2) The provisions of Republic Act No. 9337 on the President's stand-by authority to increase VAT rate to 12 percent is not a delegation of legislative power. The principle of non-delegation of powers prohibits Congress from delegating what has already been delegated to it, that is, those powers which are strictly, inherently and exclusively legislative. Thus, Congress cannot abdicate its authority to make a complete law—complete as to time when it shall take effect and as to whom it shall be applicable—and to determine the expediency of its enactment.

According to the Supreme Court, delegation is valid only if the law is: [a] complete in itself, setting forth the policy to be implemented by the delegate, and [b] fixes a determinate and determinable standard, to which the delegate must conform.

In this case, the President's stand-by authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent is not a delegation of legislative power but simply a delegation of ascertainment of facts upon which enforcement of the increased rate, under the law, is contingent. The legislature left the entire operation or non-operation of the 12 percent rate upon factual matters outside of the control of the Executive. It is mandatory and ministerial for the President to immediately impose the 12 percent rate beginning Jan. 1, 2006, as specified by Congress, upon the existence of any of the conditions set also by Congress.

(3) The President's stand-by authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent, the 70 percent cap on input tax credit, and the 5 percent creditable VAT withholding on government transactions do not violate the constitutional policies on due process and equal protection of rights and a uniform, equitable and evolving progressive taxation.

The Supreme Court ruled that the 12-percent VAT rate does not impose an unfair and unnecessary additional tax burden because the alternative conditions therefor are anchored on the principle of fiscal adequacy, thus:

[a] VAT/GDP ratio > 2.8 percent—If VAT/GDP is less than 2.8 percent, it means that government has weak or no capability to implement the VAT, or that VAT is not effective in the function of tax collection. Hence, there is no value to increasing it to 12 percent because such action will also be ineffectual.

[b] national government Deficit/GDP > 1.5 percent—The condition set for increasing VAT when deficit is 1.5 percent or less means the fiscal condition of government has reached a relatively sound position or is towards the direction of a balanced budget position. Thus, there is no need to increase the VAT rate. Otherwise stated, if the national government deficit/GDP ratio is more than 1.5 percent, there is a need to increase the VAT rate.

On the other hand, where the due process and equal protection clauses are invoked, considering that they are not fixed rules but rather broad standards, the Supreme Court held that there is a need for proof of such persuasive character as would lead to such a conclusion. Absent such showing, the presumption of validity of the law must prevail.

The Supreme Court explained that input tax is the tax paid by a person, passed on to him by the seller, when he buys goods. Output tax is the tax due from the person when he sells goods. In computing the VAT payable, three possible scenarios may arise:

[a] If at the end of a taxable quarter the output taxes charged by the seller are equal to the input taxes that he paid to (as passed on to him by) his suppliers, then no payment is required.

[b] If the output taxes exceed the input taxes, the seller shall be liable for the excess, which has to be paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); and

[c] If the input taxes exceed the output taxes, the excess shall be carried over to the succeeding quarter/s. Should the input taxes result from zero-rated or effectively zero-rated transactions, any excess over the output taxes shall instead be refunded to the taxpayer or credited against other internal revenue taxes, at the taxpayer's option.

Under RA 9337, however, a person can credit his input tax only up to 70 percent of the output tax. The court clarified that a creditable input tax is not a property or property right within the constitutional purview of the due process clause, but merely a statutory privilege, which the State may change or take away by amendatory or superseding law.

With respect to the 5 percent creditable VAT withholding imposed on payments made by the government for VAT-taxable transactions, the court emphasized that such provision is only a method of collection for a simplified VAT withholding system. Equal protection clause requires equality among equals as determined according to valid classification, that is, the grouping of persons or things similar to each other in certain particulars and different from all others in these same particulars. Here, Congress intended to treat differently taxable transactions with the government and such is a valid classification.

The court also expounded that uniformity in taxation means that all taxable articles or kinds of property of the same class shall be taxed at the same rate. Different articles may be taxed at different amounts provided that the rate is uniform on the same class everywhere with all people at all times. RA 9337 uniformly provides a standard 0 percent or 10 percent (12 percent) rate on all goods and services. It does not distinguish as to the type of industry or trade that will bear the 70 percent limit, five-year amortization on capital goods or the 5 percent creditable VAT withholding by the government.

The Supreme Court also reasoned that RA 9337 is equitable as it is equipped with threshold margins. The VAT rate of 0 percent or 10 percent (or 12 percent) does not apply to gross annual sales or receipts equal to or below P1.5 million.

Basic marine and agricultural food products in their original state are still not subject to tax. Excise taxes on petroleum products and natural gas were reduced. Percentage tax on domestic carriers was removed. Power producers are now exempt from paying franchise tax. Congress also increased the income tax rates of corporations from 32 percent to 35 percent.

Taxation is progressive when the rate goes up depending on the resources of the person affected. The court yielded that the VAT is an antithesis of progressive taxation. By its very nature, it is regressive and that, at the end of the day, it is really the lower income group or business with low-profit margins that is always hardest hit. But the court noted that the Constitution does not prohibit the imposition of indirect taxes, like VAT. What it simply provides is that Congress shall "evolve a progressive system of taxation."

Finally, the Supreme Court admitted that "taxes are the lifeblood of the government ... The court is neither blind nor is it turning a deaf ear on the plight of the masses. But it does not have the panacea for the malady that the law seeks to remedy. As in other cases, the court cannot strike down a law as unconstitutional simply because of its yokes."

ASSOCIATION of Negros Producers president Ina Gaston.

Celebrating 20 years of creativity

ASSOCIATION OF NEGROS Producers president Cristina "Ina" Gaston is a native of Cebu, but it was in Negros where she fully explored her gift for creativity in designing which paved the way for her to also discover her entrepreneurial skills.

Married to Negrense businessman Joey Gaston right after college, she soon put up the Hacienda Crafts in Negros making items using ingenious native materials.

She joined the ANP in 1991 and was later elected its president. She was also a president of the Designers' Guild Philippines Negros Island.

A forerunner of provincial light industrial development, ANP continues to break ground for small and medium entrepreneurs. The ANP was chosen as model for entrepreneurial development when it was named program manager for the National Economic Enterprise Development Program to help introduce livelihood activities in 20 depressed provinces of the Philippines.

The initiative gave birth to the ANP Foundation for Enterprise Development Inc. which helped nurture more than 150 enterprises nationwide.

In recognition of its role in business development, the ANP has also been named by the Negros Occidental Development Board as lead agency of its trade promotions unit.

"The best thing about ANP is that we are more interested in giving livelihood to communities," Gaston says. "In the midst of the crisis our country is facing, we are trying our best to help boost the economy of the country by encouraging people to do what you can do in your own backyard."

ANP producers are noted for their ability to transform even trivial materials into first-class creations and designs.

The ANP opened its 20th trade fair in Manila at the Gateway Festival at the Araneta Center in Cubao, last week to again provide a venue for an expanded marketing for its members. The ANP hopes to look for people who can move the products of its members for export.

For the past years, the ANP market expanded all over the world with about one-third of the producer-members engaged in export business. Markets include the United States, Europe, Japan, Africa, the Middle East, Scandinavian countries and Singapore.

The ANP started with 47 members in 1988 and now has 89.

ANP members include makers of garments, fashion accessories, food, gifts and novelty items, handicrafts, furnishings and furnitures.

To keep up with the challenges in the world market, Gaston says they are continually looking for new designs and do research works.

Despite the stiff competition and the threat of countries like China in the manufacturing business, Gaston remains confident that ANP will continue its steady climb because of the intrinsic style of the Ilonggos. Filipinos easily understand different cultures and how people live, Gaston said.

More than just ...

From page B2-1

same time help market the firm.

"I am fortunate to have a very effective and competent management team who spend a lot of time developing, coaching and motivating their staff. We put a lot of emphasis on building strong teams as this in turn makes Exel a stronger and more effective organization. We also strive for excellence in everything we do and make sure that we celebrate individual and team successes," states Michael.

Benefits in Exel must be excellent as their annual turnover of employees is only 5 percent

Last week, Deutsche Post, Europe's biggest postal operator and owner of courier DHL, offered to buy the Britain-based Exel for $6.7 billion to tap the fast-growing market for supply chain management and make up for falling sales at home, according to international reports.

The deal will create the world's biggest logistics, sea and air freight group, and in particular boost Deutsche Post's position in the fast-growing contract logistics market, which involves long-term deals to manage companies' supply chains.

JOJO Diaz de Rivera with Michael Buckley

Preventing merchandise from going up in smoke

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A SUPERMARKET OR CLOTHES shop can have the most modern architecture and scene-stealing merchandise layout, but these are no match for a raging fire.

Thus, to see expensive property literally go up in flames is perhaps one of a retailer's worst nightmares.

And it can happen in the Philippines because of its tropical weather that is a fire's friend.

It is for this reason that retailers in the Philippines go out of their way to put in the necessary equipment to bring down the odds of a store catching fire. People are likewise trained to respond to fire alarms and to help customers to safety.

When it comes to fire, all that the retailers can really do is focus on prevention.

The same goes for shoplifting or pilferage. Retailers in the Philippines say that all efforts come down to vigilance.

Business Friday features here three retailers that are among the leaders in their field that take fire prevention and security measures to heart.

TOP RETAILERS such as Mobile I (above left), Handyman (above) and Shopwise (below right) focus on prevention and vigilance to prevent fire and promote security

Robinsons Handyman Inc.

Home improvement store Robinsons Handyman Inc. takes its cue from the policies on fire safety and security espoused by the entire Robinsons group of companies.

Ferzenio SG Gonzales, manager of the corporate engineering department of Robinsons Land Corp., says in an interview that the company makes sure it designs its stores well to prevent electric outlets from being overloaded.

He said circuit breakers are installed in such a way that they would shut off automatically in case of overloading—one of the main causes of fire in the Philippines.

Handyman sells flammable products such as paints and thinners.

Marketing services officer Jane N. Austria says the key to prevention lies in the proper store layout. The area is also always kept clean to prevent combustion.

Austria adds the store personnel are trained on what to do in case of fire. A fire brigade led by the store or branch manager is on its toes and are equipped to use fire extinguishers in case of fire.

Security is another problem, and Austria admits that incidence of shoplifting and pilferage is on the rise due to economic difficulties in the Philippines that have forced some Filipinos to turn to crime.

Austria discloses cases where some buyers come in with loose pants for them to slip small but high-ticket items such as padlocks, small power tools, adjustable wrenches, batteries and even cordless phones.

"We just rely on our house security officers to watch out for these shoplifters because it is expensive for us to put in a lot of closed circuit television cameras. So far, we have been able to keep shoplifting to a minimum," she says.

As for internal theft, Austria says Handyman personnel are frisked and lockers checked for possible theft. Handyman also conducts two inventories a year to check discrepancies that could have been due to pilferage caused by employees.

Handyman, which has 46 stores nationwide, mostly in Robinsons and Waltermart shopping malls, has put a 2-percent of gross revenues cap on losses to pilferage. Austria said Handyman has so far performed below the average at just 0.8-1 percent.

And it wants to keep it that way, or even improve on it.

Shopwise

Like Robinsons Handyman, the Shopwise hypermarkets of the Rustans group of companies take fire protection and security very seriously, knowing that they have millions in property that could be razed to the ground or lost to thieves if they do not take pains to prevent it.

Shopwise head Bienvenido Tantoco III says Shopwise first abides by all the requirements under the fire code prescribed by the government, then takes it a step further.

He says, however, that fire safety comes down to vigilance. He says all objects that could cause fire are cleared twice a day, one in the morning and again when the store closes at the end of the day, to prevent fire.

Aside from fire, security is a major issue and Shopwise—like Robinsons—has noticed an increase in the cases of internal and external theft across its five branches.

"On the employee side, we start with the hiring of good employees. And we try to have a good support system such that rather than steal, we try to make as much of a difference as we can to help our employees so that they won't do it," he says.

For external theft, Tantoco says Shopwise invested in CCTVs installed in critical areas to check against theft. There is also a group of security guards that blend in with the crowd to deter shoplifting.

"If we do catch somebody, we go for conviction. That is the only way to prevent theft and cases have been increasing. I guess it is a sign of the times," Tantoco says.

Shopwise has five stores in operation, with the sixth recently opeend at Harrison Plaza. Shopwise hopes to beef up its network in Metro Manila to eight by the end of next year.

Mobile I

Digital products retailer Mobile 1 differentiates itself from the market by allowing consumers to see, touch and feel the latest in digital equipment, such as cellular phones, personal digital assistants and entertainment devices.

As such, its five branches sell big ticket items that consume electricity and are prone to theft.

The loss of even just one product impacts on the bottom line due to the cost and the low profit margins brought on by competition and the weakening purchasing power of the Filipino, thus it gives high priority to fire security and safety.

Gerry Yu, operations manager of Mobile1, says in an interview that a general rule is for the stores to have one usable fire extinguisher. Another is to make sure that outlets are properly covered when not in use.

"Mobile 1 offers products that use electrical power. Because of this, one safety precaution is avoiding multiple or "octopus" connections in a single outlet," Yu says.

In terms of security, Yu says Mobile1 has installed theft detectors by the doorway.

"These detectors will sound the moment a product is shoplifted. For each product displayed in our store, a "detection sticker is placed and is deactivated only when it's sold and paid for," he says.

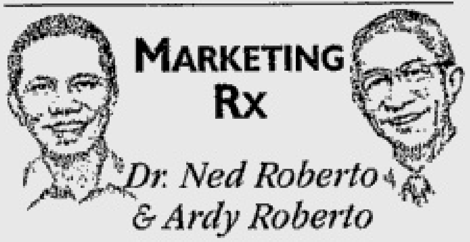
For the accessories section, the store installs weight locks before each row of items merchandised in the accessory walls. There are also security guards dressed in civilian clothes to apprehend unsuspecting shoplifters.

Mobile 1 has to invest in these measures as shoplifters are becoming more imaginative.

"In some cases, we have customers who actually purchase from Mobile 1 and after paying, goes back to the shelves to look at one product. While nobody is looking, the shoplifter inserts the unpaid product inside the paper bag. We have caught several shoplifters using this kind of strategy," Yu says.

But with these measures in place, Mobile1 has not lost a significant amount to thieves. And it keeps within the ideal cap of less than 1 percent of total store sales.

Pancit and the Catman, and penetrating new markets



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: We have a noodle factory, producing traditional *pancit* canton but not instant noodle, pasta, bihon and other kinds of noodle. We have penetrated all kinds of market except supermarkets. They're very hard to transact with, very costly and they ask a lot of support. What can we do?

A: Your *pancit* business—forgive the pun—all boils down to (among others) size.

That is, how much size of business or sales your "traditional pancit" will bring to the supermarket retail account you're prospecting.

The supermarkets you've approached are actually quite polite to you about this. Instead of directly telling you that: "If your marketing support (like advertising, promotional pricing, in-store and trade promos) for your traditional pancit won't bring in so many hundreds of thousands peso sales per month to this supermarket, then forget it! Come back when it will."

Other supermarkets, especially the likes of SM, won't think twice telling you in the most direct way. So this only means that you'll have to wait until that time when you can offer that sizeable sales volume that will make business sense to supermarkets to give you your needed shelf space.

When you get that sizable sales volume, you can now justify the "support" that the stores ask for in your marketing budget. Basically, the "support" is really rental of display space. Recently, the junior MRx was listening to the woes of a marketing man from a top pharma company. He was lamenting about the rising cost of selling his products through the top drug store chain. "Each move you make, every space you take-costs you an arm and a leg!" He sounded like a song from Sting but he did recognize that they could live without the drug store retail chain.

Category management

We told him to blame this on the Catman.

Who is, or rather, what is Catman?

Catman is short for category management. It's basically marketing at the local store or point of sale level. It's LSM or Local Store Marketing. It has a compelling business logic that says: "Total sales from my chain of stores is a function of the sales productivity of the weakest store in my chain." So it's not getting my chain of stores to compete with one another that will solve this problem. It's getting the rest of the stores in the chain to cooperate and help out the weakest link.

The reason why supermarkets-from SM to Mercury (yes, they do look like supermarkets nowadays don't they?) are "harder to deal with" albeit more scientific and systematic and more costly, is because they now manage their business via the "category management"—Catman—system.

There's of course more to CatMan (Category Management) than this very brief profile. It should be another interesting subject for our future column.

Different brand for masa?

Q: In the healthcare service industry, would you recommend creating a different brand for the "masa" market segment? Is it a good idea to offer the same set of healthcare services using different branding for different market segments at different prices?

A: It would have helped us get specific with our diagnosis and prescription if you told us what specific healthcare service you are in, e.g., health insurance, HMO, medical testing and examination, out-patient care, dental, physical therapy, etc. In any case, let's try diagnosing by focusing on your target market segment, namely, the "masa" market.

Area. In population size, the "masa" market segment is huge and being in service marketing, you would need to further segment this market to the level of where each of your healthcare service site or facility can access and serve their healthcare needs where they are. For example, when we were helping FriendlyCare Clinic (FCC), we found that each of their 10 sites got 80-90 percent of its patients within 2 km radius of each clinic's location. So for FCC, the issue of serving the "masa" reduces to serving the Class DE who lived in each clinic's geographical area defined by a 2 km radius around that clinic's location. In this specific case, the operative segmentation was common sense—segment by area.

Priority values. Next, within each of your operative geographical market segment, find out what the Class D and the Class E segments hold as priority values for your healthcare services. So that's segmenting your geographical segment by the two SEC segments of the "masa:" Class D segment (mga mahirap) and Class E segment (mga dukha). For example, suppose in your chat with Class E patients you found that for any healthcare service, the Class E mothers talked about first really low priced service with "yung kahit na konting quality" (just even a little sprinkling of quality). On the other hand, Class D mothers said that to them "sana mura pero me minimum quality" (cheap but with minimum quality).

If you want Class E and Class D clients, then it follows that you have to configure your healthcare services according to each client segment's priority values. Giving each service configuration a different brand name is signaling to each client segment this difference, and what's appropriate for each. That's essentially what the airlines do. It's essentially the same core service of flying you from point A to point B. But they brand the service for the "masa" passenger as "Economy," that for the executives as "Business Class," and that for the shamelessly rich as "First Class."

The answer to your pricing question follows from the above. Pricing, as Harvard's marketing guru, Ted Levitt says, is 'value added.' "The priority values of your Class D are "higher" than those of your Class E. So price accordingly.

Health insurance in fiestas?

Q: Do you think people will spend on health care or health insurance during fiestas? For example, having rolling health-check stores at the fiesta fair site offering preventive care services?

A: Being an entrepreneur, the junior MRx-er is tempted to say: "Why not?" But the senior MRx-er would butt in and say: "Okay. Go ahead BUT test it first." This last portion of the prescription is where we'll start for this Marketing Rx column.

We'll say this. Even before testing, start knowing and understanding the consumers at fiestas. Find out what are their "purchase system" while enjoying themselves in a fiesta. By "purchase system" we mean the bundle of products and services consumers buy while in a fiesta. Ask also: Do they think and can they be made to think; are they concerned or can be made to be concerned about preventive care while in a fiesta? When we say "ask," we mean research these.

Notice also that we put in the qualifier, "can be made to think," and "can be made to be concerned" because there is such as a thing as "educating" and giving consumers a learning experience.

We are thinking of the literal mushrooming of health check and preventive care "stores" in many leading shopping malls. You'll find them in Greenbelt, Glorietta, SM Mega Mall, etc. That was a "market-driving" strategy more than a "market-driven" strategy for the marketing of those healthcare services. Shoppers were made to think, were made to be concerned, and to learn that they can shop for not only their material needs but also for their wellness needs in the shopping mall.

So you might want to proceed by stages. Try being first in the shopping mall. Learn from that experience and then use your insights there to test your intended presence in fiestas.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919 314 5412. God bless!

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (right) with the winning team

BBDO Guerrero Ortega takes home first Silver Cannes Lion for RP

BBDO GUERRERO ORTEGA'S "Bunso" commercial not only raised awareness on juvenile justice, but also garnered the Philippines' first Silver Cannes Lions award in the history of the 52 year-old Cannes International Advertising Festival.

The "Bunso" commercial is drawn from award-winning filmmaker Ditsi Carolino's documentary of the same name, which features the lives of children who are put in the same jail as adult criminals. The ad calls for the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law Reform.

Agency chair, David Guerrero, being a fan of Carolino's work, first saw the documentary at a British Council screening early last year. "Her work is unique, there's nothing else like it. She was able to capture what [the children were] going through without getting very sentimental in the way it was told. It gets its power from the fact that the subject matter is so shocking, but the way it's told is quite dispassionate," he said. "I don't think anyone who saw the documentary failed to be affected by it."

Being the first Philippine agency to bring home a Silver Lion has strengthened Guerrero's goals for the company. "We consider it a very important part of our business to benchmark ourselves against international standards and to give the country recognition in the international advertising community," he said. "We also don't forget that the ultimate point of having that benchmark is to improve the quality of what we do. Ultimately it's about making our clients more competitive as they face this barrage of globalization and the competition it brings."

The Cannes Lions winners were announced in June, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer awarded BBDO Guerrero Ortega with the Silver Lions trophy last Sept. 14. The Ad Board also rewarded the BBDO Guerrero Ortega with P100,000, which the agency immediately donated to the Consuelo Foundation.

Cannes Lions is the only international festival that brings together the world's advertising, creative, direct marketing, interactive, film, radio, media, and marketing communities, hosts 8,000 industry figures from 75 countries, recognizing the very best in their field.

BBDO is part of the Omnicom group of companies.

Omnicom Group Inc. is a leading global marketing and corporate communications company. Omnicom's branded networks and numerous specialty firms provide advertising, strategic media planning and buying, direct and promotional marketing, public relations and other specialty communications services to over 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries.

What They Say About eTelecare's Latest Award

(Excerpts From Official Messages)

"I salute the hardworking men and women behind **eTelecare Global Solutions** for their enduring and collective efforts in putting into form a service to the Filipino community that is **truly an inspiring achievement.** It is vital to continue and preserve **service that convey great values, creativity, and ingenuity** that is **integrated with advanced technology.** I urge each and everyone of you to stay upbeat and vigilant as the whole nation joins hands in leading the country to greater progress and stability."

"...truly an inspiring achievement..."

RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

"I laud your efforts in **establishing the standard of excellence and performance,** alongside the **human aspect of management** for the development of our human resource. It is heartening to note **eTelecare's** impressive growth and continuous expansion to date. From one call center with less than a hundred employees, it now boasts of **eleven locations** employing **7,000 professionals,** servicing **30 clients** and generating **over P7 billion** in revenues. Indeed, the accomplishments of **eTelecare** augur well for the IT and e-services sector in the country, spurring economic growth and creating much-needed jobs, income and livelihood for the people."

"...establishing the standard of excellence and performance..."

MAR ROXAS
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

"It is heartening to note that this is the **31st major award** won by **eTelecare Global Solutions** since its incorporation five years ago. **eTelecare is the first call center company in the country to have garnered such recognition.** I am pleased to note that **eTelecare** has successfully integrated an efficient business model, advanced and thorough processes, highly dedicated people and the finest technology in its operations – hence, the superior value services it offers to its stakeholders."

"...31st major award won by eTelecare..."

Peter B. Favila
Acting Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

"**PEZA** as well as the Eastwood City Cyberpark, PBCom Tower, and Asiatown I.T. Park Special Economic Zones and I.T. Parks and Buildings are truly proud to host one of the leading and very successful call center companies in the Philippines, and the **first and only call center company to have garnered this award** while also **being the youngest company at 5 years** since its incorporation to have ever won this award. I am confident that this **Outstanding Employer of the Year Award** is just the beginning of many awards awaiting **eTelecare Global Solutions, Inc.** in our country."

"...first and only call center company to have garnered this award..."

LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General
Phil. Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

"This award, now on its 29th year, is to give public honor and recognition to the **best organization with a solid reputation for sound people management practices.** We take pride in welcoming **eTelecare Global Solutions** to the honored roster of Philippine organizations that have received this award. We look forward to greater heights that the company may achieve as contributor to our country's economic growth. **Congratulations for being the best of the best.**"

"...the best of the best."

LINA A. ASENETA, FPM
President
Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)

eTelecare named the country's Employer of the Year

CEBU CITY – The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) named **eTelecare Global Solutions** as the **Outstanding Employer of the Year** in ceremonies at the Annual PMAP Conference held September 29, 2005 at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu. PMAP is the country's leading association of over 1000 member companies engaged in human resource management (HRM) and industrial relations (IR).

eTelecare is the youngest company to have won this very prestigious award validating its five years of trailblazing investment in employee satisfaction, training and career development.

The competition for the Outstanding Employer of the Year award was fierce. eTelecare emerged as the winner after undergoing PMAP's highly rigorous process including extensive employee interviews at three of eTelecare's call centers in Manila and Cebu.

eTelecare Global Solutions is the first call center company to receive this prestigious award besting other leading companies in the Philippines. In winning this award, eTelecare joins the roster of previous distinguished winners such as Pfizer, Nestle, Procter & Gamble and Unilever.

eTelecare's award helps place a spotlight on the very positive prospects of the country's sunrise industry, call centers.

This is the 31st award won by eTelecare. Among its previous international awards are ICCM's Best Outsourcer Awardee for four straight years from 2001 to 2004, Best Call Center Agent from the Call Center Magazine and Offshore 100's Top 10 Leader in Human Capital Development.

eTelecare's Chairman of the Board, Fred Ayala together with eTelecare's General Manager, Benedict Hernandez reads PMAP's recognition

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EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

eTelecare
The Employer of the Year

Being named the Outstanding Employer of the Year is a big source of pride as we are receiving this very prestigious award from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), the country's leading association of over 1000 companies engaged in human resource management.

To our eTelecare team, let us celebrate this victory. You are our inspiration, the reason why eTelecare is the youngest firm and the first call center company to be named the Philippines' Outstanding Employer of the Year.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Christian Lacroix quits French fashion house Pucci

EMILIO Pucci's Spring/Summer 2006 women's collection REUTERS

PARIS—LVMH, THE world's biggest luxury goods group, confirmed on Wednesday that designer Christian Lacroix was quitting colorful Italian fashion house Emilio Pucci and said it would appoint a replacement shortly.

Lacroix held his last show for Florentine design house Pucci in Milan on Tuesday, and the move severs his final tie with LVMH after it sold the Christian Lacroix fashion label that bears his name to US private investors the Falic Group earlier this year.

LVMH acquired the Emilio Pucci brand in 2000, and Lacroix joined as artistic director in July 2002.

"With the development of the Christian Lacroix house in Paris and my work notably for the theatre, it wasn't serious doing things by half," Le Figaro newspaper quoted Lacroix as saying.

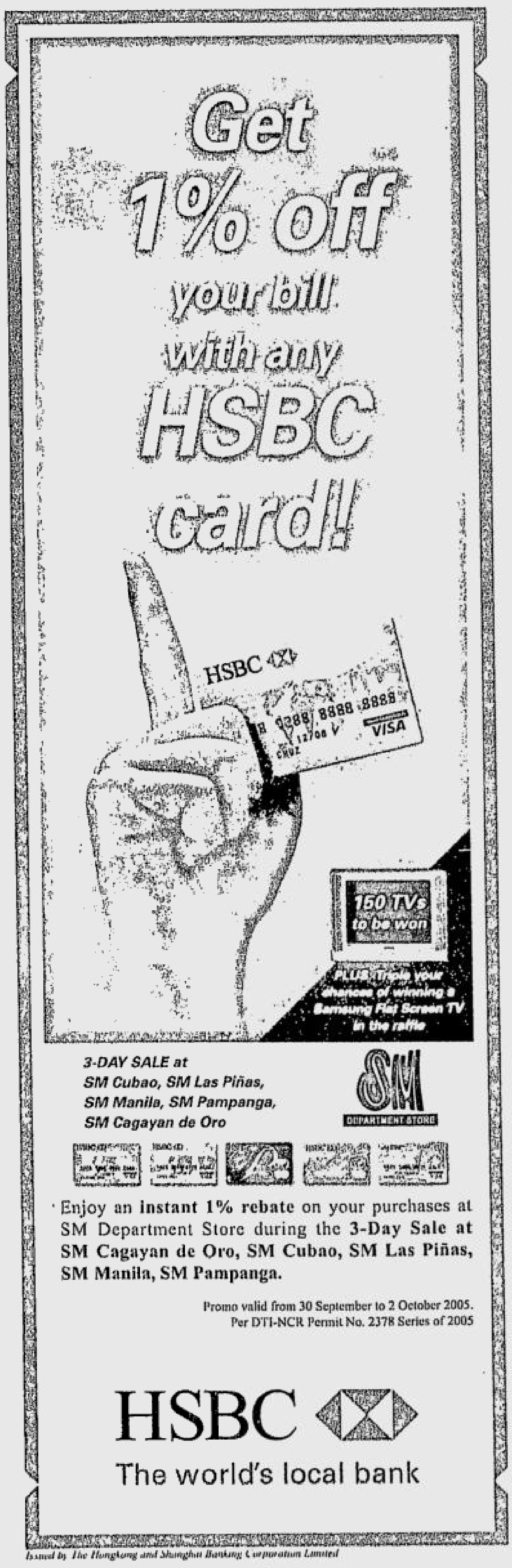
Lacroix has diversified away from his creative role at luxury fashion houses, designing uniforms for Air France, the interior of a hotel in Paris and restyling carriages for France's high-speed TGV trains.

Emilio Pucci said he had significantly contributed to the label's revival.

The International Herald Tribune newspaper said Britain's Matthew Williamson was set to replace Lacroix but this could not be immediately confirmed. *Reuters*

DESIGNER Christian Lacroix taking a bow during Milan Fashion Week REUTERS

SIGNATURE season look of the Florentine design house Pucci REUTERS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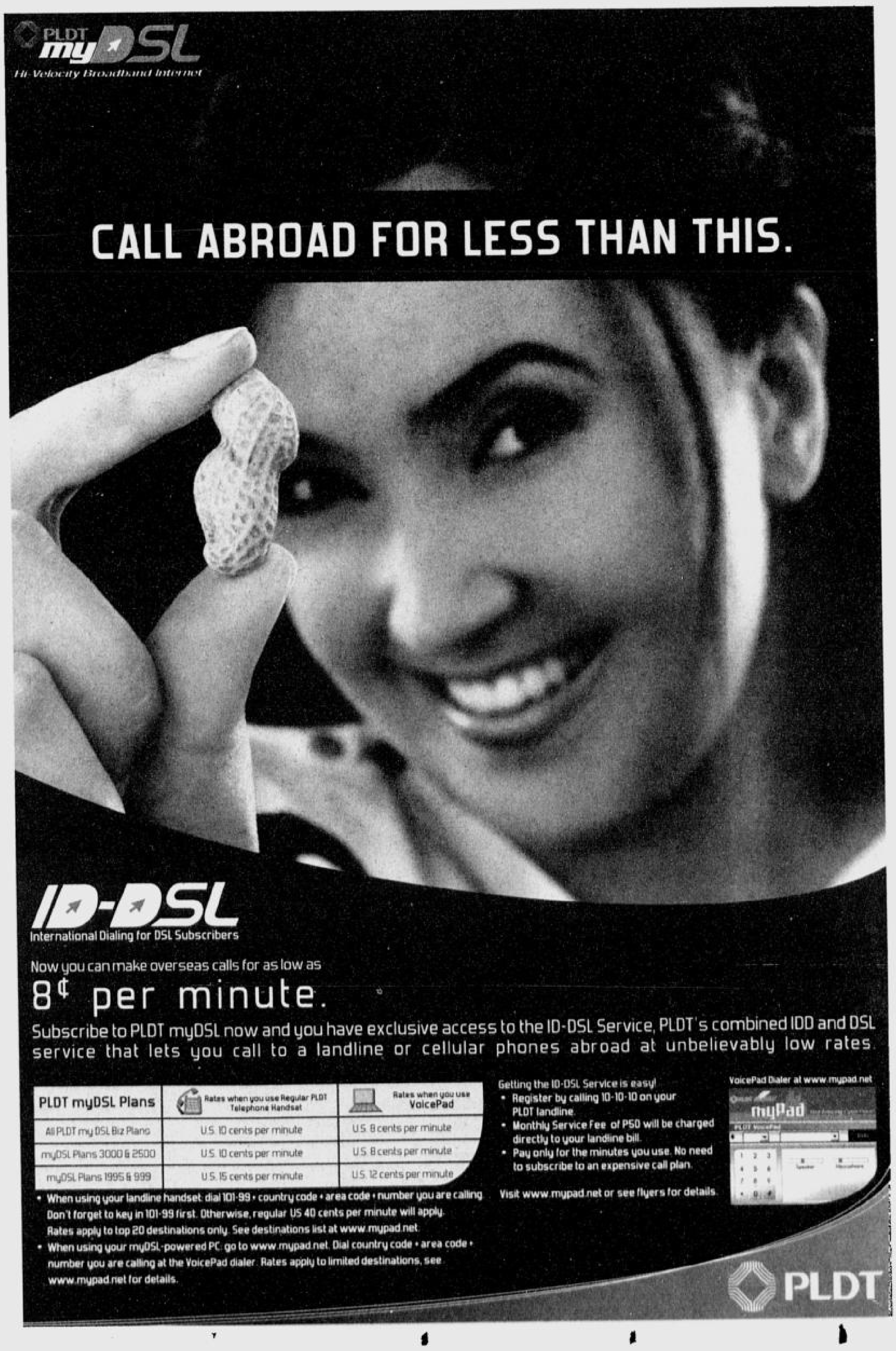
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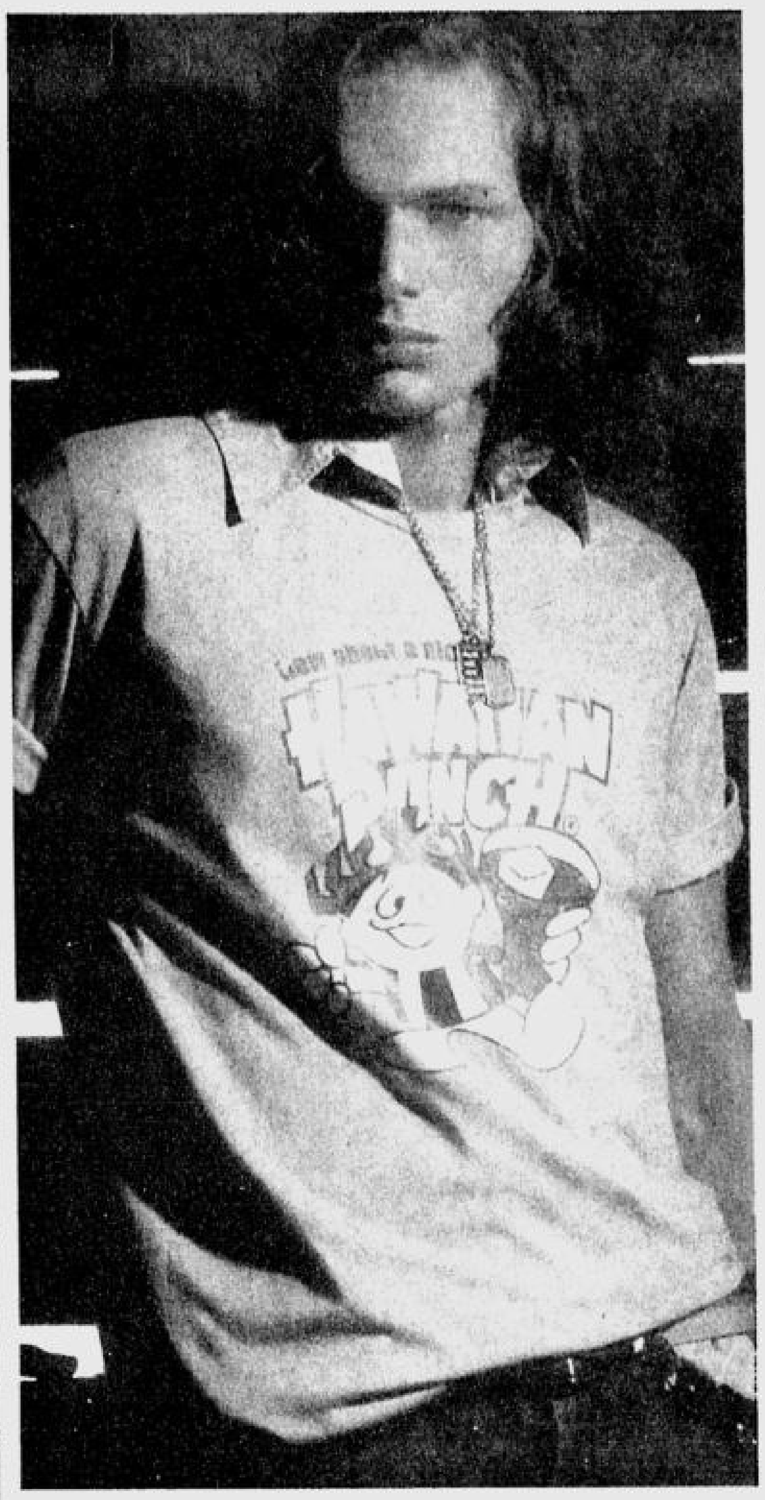
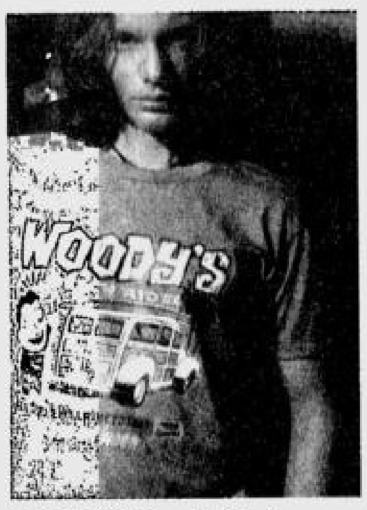
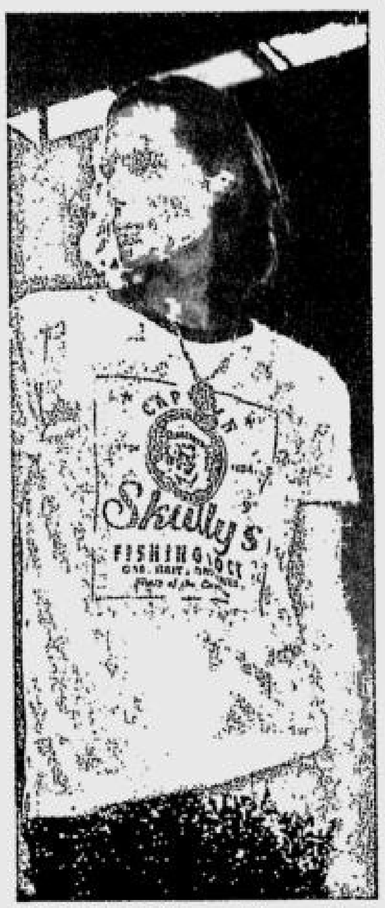
Vintage tees for new generation



THIRST QUENCHER. Crackled Hawaiian Punch printed vintage shirt



WOODY'S Beach Rides tee



PASTEL-PINK tee with crackled Pirate of the Caribbean and Captain Skully's prints

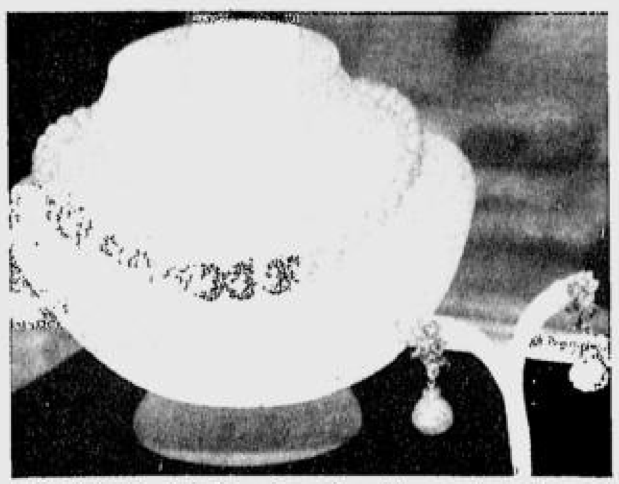
BURNT-ORANGE Fisherman's Wharf design crackled vintage shirt over beige long-sleeved tee and jeans

TEES HAVE DEFINED EACH generation's youth. And at a time when looking back means going forward, vintage tees are hotter than ever at SM!

These are tees that talk—with messages, logos and icons that serve as a bridge between today's teens and their parents' generation.

Some simply rock—Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada, Hawaiian Punch, Fisherman's Wharf. Others bring one back to favorite hangouts of an older generation—Drive in Snack Bar, Big Peter's Discount Butcher, Woody's Beach Rides, Salty's Nut Shack and Cool Bag and Gag Roadkill Café.

Cool crackled details add to that American vintage feel. A cool fashion mouthpiece for youths past and present, the collection is available at the Boys Teens Wear Department of all SM stores.



TESSA Valdes' choice of pearl necklace and earring set available at Metro Gaisano in Market! Market!

MORE choice jew

GORGEOUS bag and matching bracelet, available at Chi Chi Rico in Marke Market!

Trendy prescription glasses

OAKLEY Softop 6.0

OAKLEY, KNOWN FOR ITS COOL SHADES for the hip and trendy, has come up with its own line of prescription glasses in three new styles: Kickstand, Spoke and Soft Top 6.0.

"Our successful line of ophthalmic frames is expanding with new designs that take advantage of our proven technologies," says Oakley president Colin Baden. "Our prescription eyewear business continues to be an important avenue for educating new and existing customers about Oakley design philosophy and dedication to technology. Those who choose Oakley purely for fashion learn that performance, durability and comfort are also synonymous with the brand."

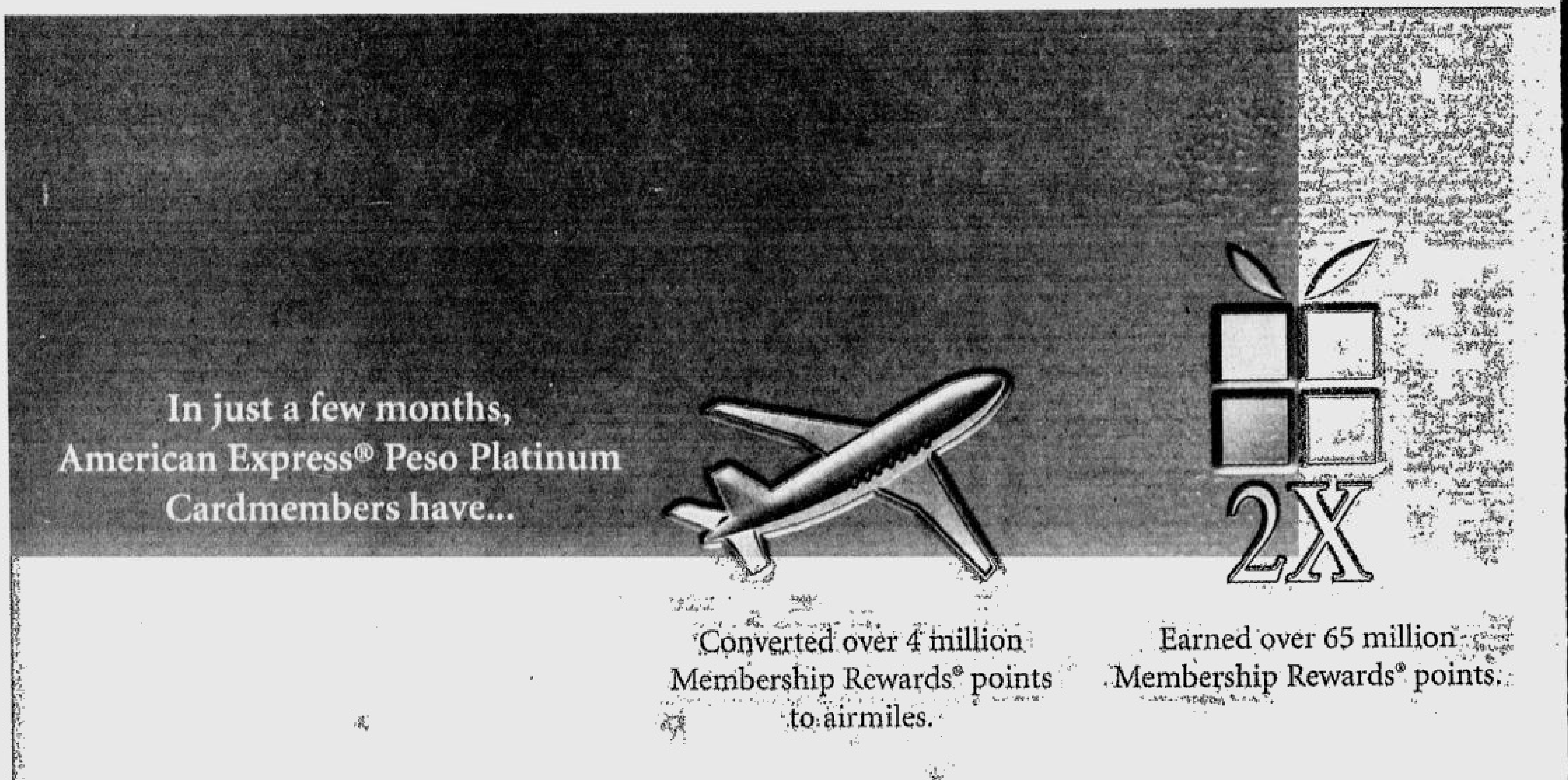
With clean lines that convey the individuality of the wearer, Oakley's new Kickstand is an ophthalmic-specific frame made of lightweight C-5 alloy. The ear stems combine the secure grip of supple Unobtainium with the adaptive fit of piston spring hinges to offer all-day comfort. Kickstand will be available with two lens shape options.

A new ophthalmic-specific frame called Spoke utilizes Oakley O Metal, an alloy that allows the company to create exceptionally thin and lightweight frames. This innovative material enables Oakley to produce eyewear that offers a secure fit with minimal pressure on the temples. The subtle and distinctive sculpture of Spoke will be available in two lens shape options. Four finishes are planned for this frame, and all designs will feature the comfort and grip of soft Unobtainium components.

Further expanding the company's array of prescription frames for women, the new Soft Top 6.0 is slated for release in four color options. This product combines lightweight O Matter frame material with hinge accents of C-5 alloy. The new design joins a popular line that includes Soft Top 2.0 and Soft Top 4.0. All frames in this line are heat adjustable for a customized fit, and are available with a specific fit for Asian bridge configuration. No need to worry about the glasses slipping down your nose.

All Oakley prescription eyewear and lenses come standard with a highly protective Metal Vault case and one-year warranty against manufacturer's defects.

Oakley ophthalmic-specific eyewear is available in all Oakley authorized dealers.



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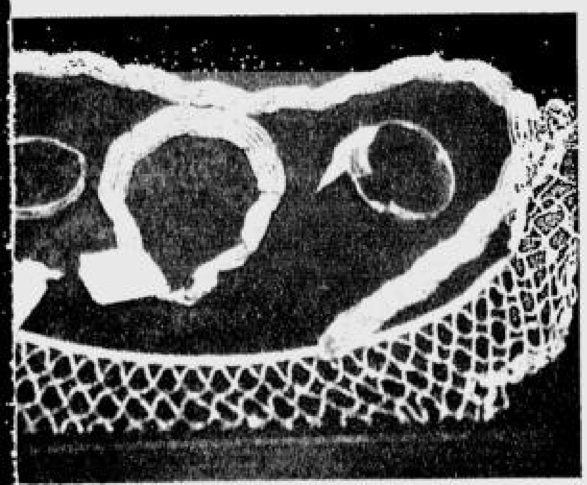


lry at Metro Gaisano in Market! Market!

STAR necklace—a fashionista must-have

INTRICATE beaded necklace

ashionista's fab finds

DRESSING UP FABULOUSLY NEED not cost an arm and a leg. All you need to know is where to look. The flamboyant interior designer and style icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes found amazing discoveries at Market! Market! at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, for instance.

"The more you dig, the better deals you'll find," the social chronicler enthuses. "It was my first time to shop in the mall and it was a blast!"

Tessa's first stop was funky Chi Chi Rico, owned by Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo of Firma fame.

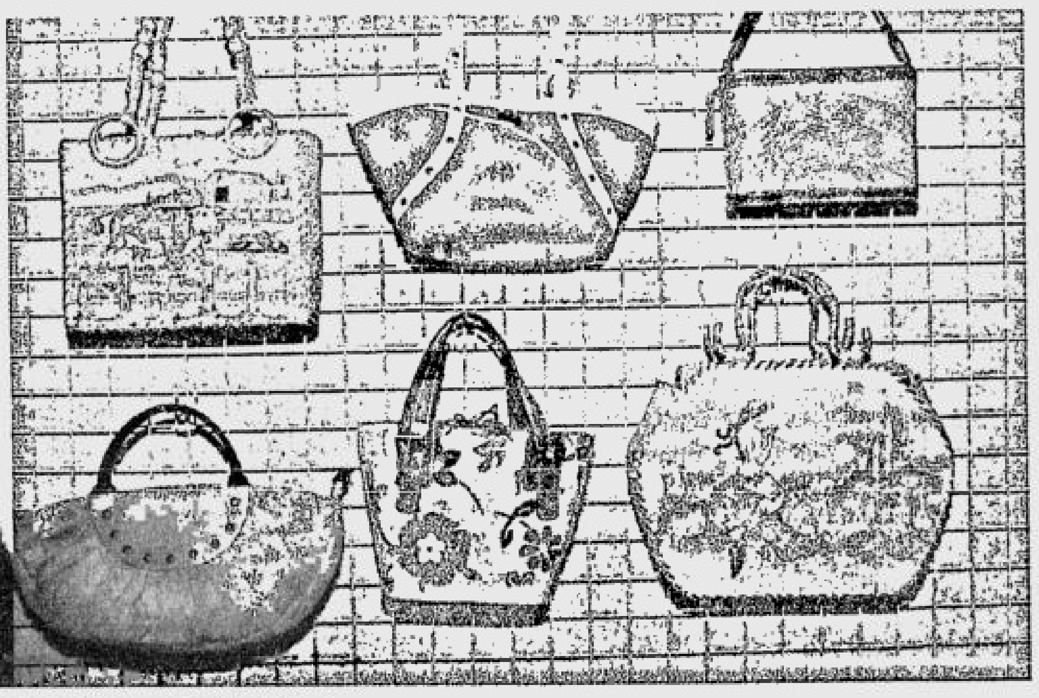
"The amazing thing about the finds in this shop is that they are mostly for export and are so unique. The fancy accessories are so reasonably priced, I was tempted to buy all shapes and colors," she says. "They have chic bags that would look great with the hats that they carry as well."

She also found shell accessories, wigs, hair extensions, pearls and buttons—all perfect for her glitzy and colorful look—at the Gift Market! on the ground floor of this shopping complex which is open Mondays to Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

YELLOW bag with bow detail

> As it happens, Tessa Prieto-Valdes is also a 'shopping-era' so it's twice the fun for her to go to Market! Market!

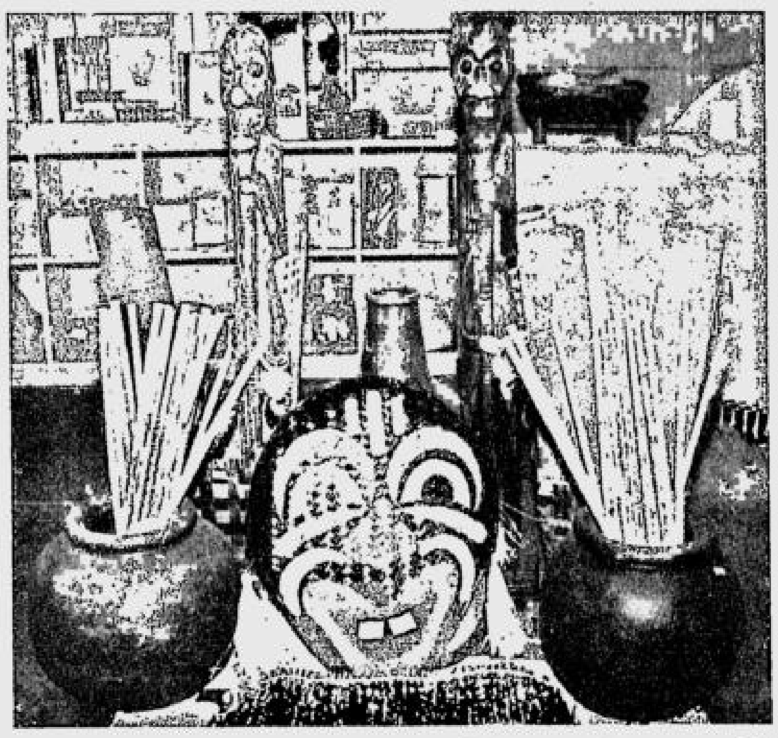
k!



COLORFUL and printed bags

FANCY butterflies are cute ornaments for the home. Available at Gift Market!

DAZZLING neckpiece



EXOTIC masks make perfect gifts. Available at Gift Market!

Tessa is a certified bargain-hunter—and is proud to be one. "I always love the thrill of looking for bargains and for one-of-a-kind qualities in an item. I enjoy spending time looking around small stalls checking out what new designs they have. The aisles are wide enough so it was really easy to move around even if there were lots of people." she says.

"Also, I love it that you can buy cute hair accessories in the same place as beautiful fresh flowers and the best barbecue in town, " she says, referring to the Fiesta Market where one can get the freshest produce and the most beautiful flowers plus dine on anything from street food.to the widest selection of Filipino dishes from the various regions in the country.

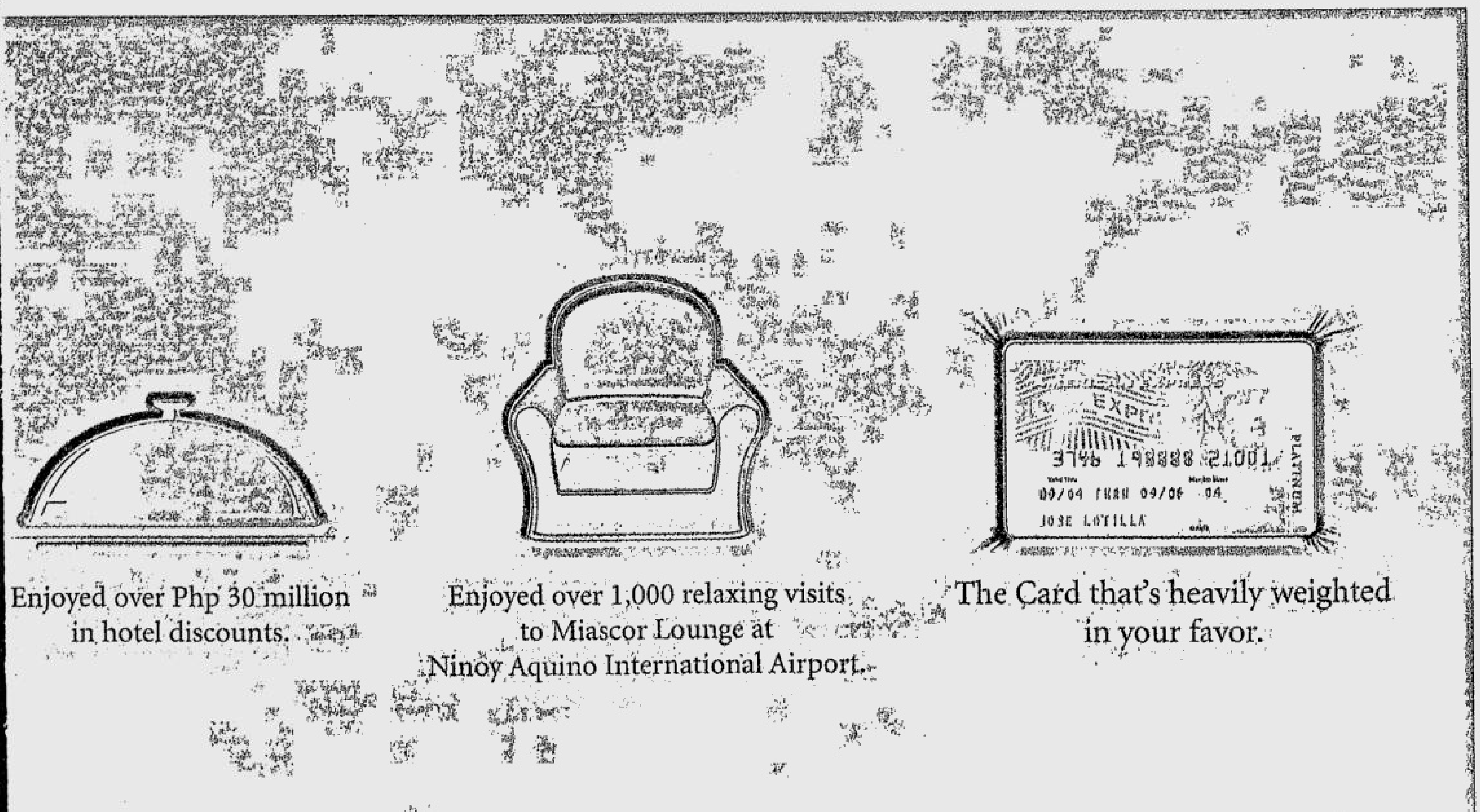
For her needs for the home, Tessa heads for Metro Gaisano, which this chic mom reports has the best merchandising.

"Their department store has a great selection of home accessories, kids' clothes, toys and, so far, their supermarket at the basement has the best choices in detergent," she declares. "Metro Gaisano's grocery is the most complete!"

To get the most out of a shopping expedition, this seasoned shopper goes for items as unique and striking as she is. "I look at items made with local materials but done in a different way," she muses "Form and function are important. If they don't have either one of them, don't even bother buying the item."

Tessa also appreciates Market! Market!'s strategic location, as it allows her to troop to the mall from her home in an exclusive Makati subdivision Forbes Park without braving any traffic. A full-service transport terminal and more than 2,000 parking slots in the open-space parking and parking building whose basement connects to the Metro Supermarket are also available for your convenience.

Tessa's best shopping tip? "Reward yourself with small gifts at least once a month. It's the small pleasures in life that can really turn a rainy day sunny!"



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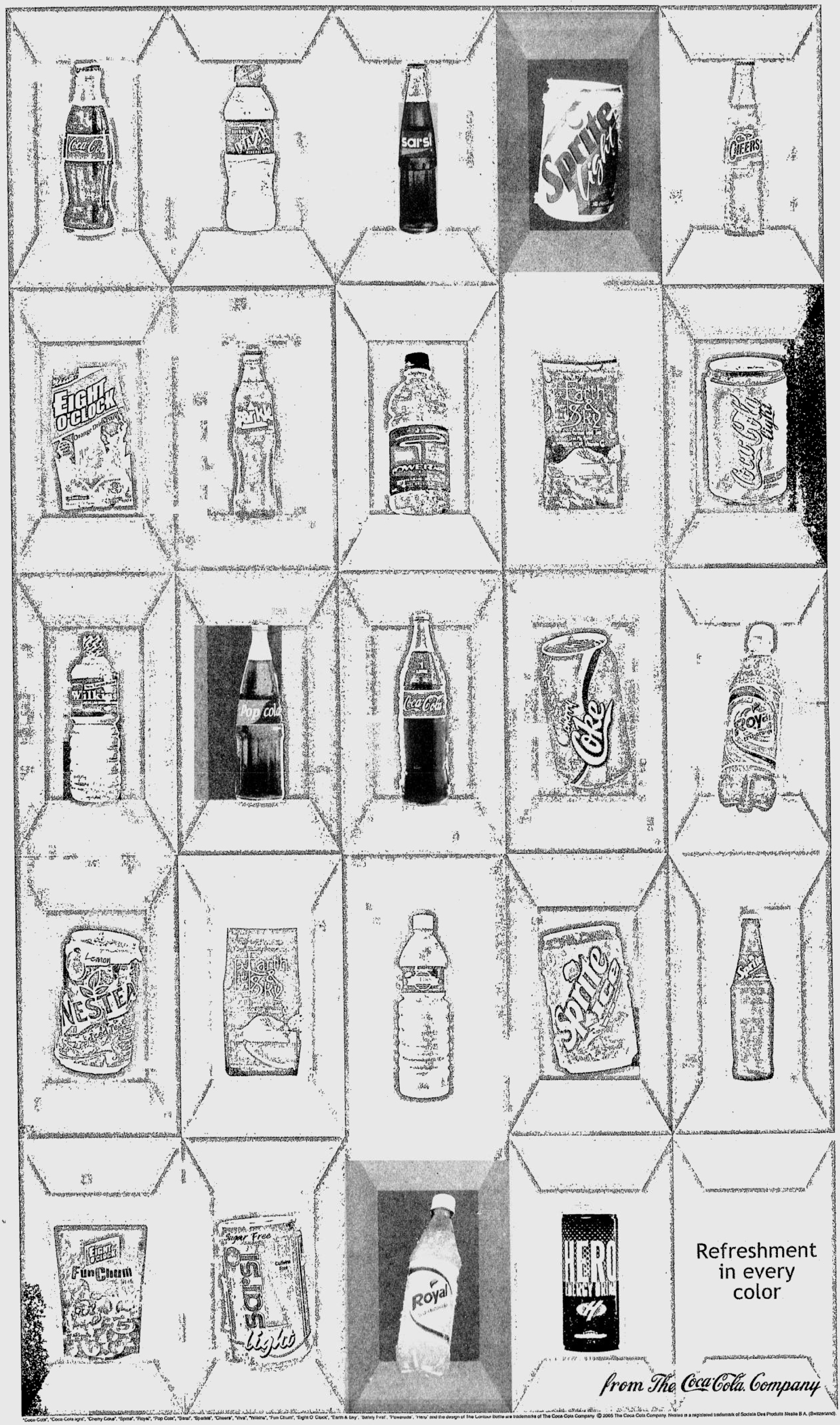
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COUSINS Donnie Tantoco and Anton Huang, both astute retailers, with Ernie Lopez

UK household brand comes to the Philippines

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

JUST WHEN MANY BUSINESSMEN ARE ducking for cover because of our troubled economy, Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) continues to expand. It is opening the Philippine store of the leading UK specialty store Debenhams in November and before that, in October, the country's first free-standing store of the world-renowned Spanish women's brand, Zara.

Why the bold moves while other businesses hold back? "This is the business we're in, no way to go but forward," SSI executive vice president **Anton Huang** told us.

"It's a mixed bag," he described the business climate. While some parts of the retail sector may be in a slump or plateau, the high-end retail sector, which includes SSI, is not. "Ours is growing. It's been a good '04 and '05," he said.

Anton thinks it could be because people

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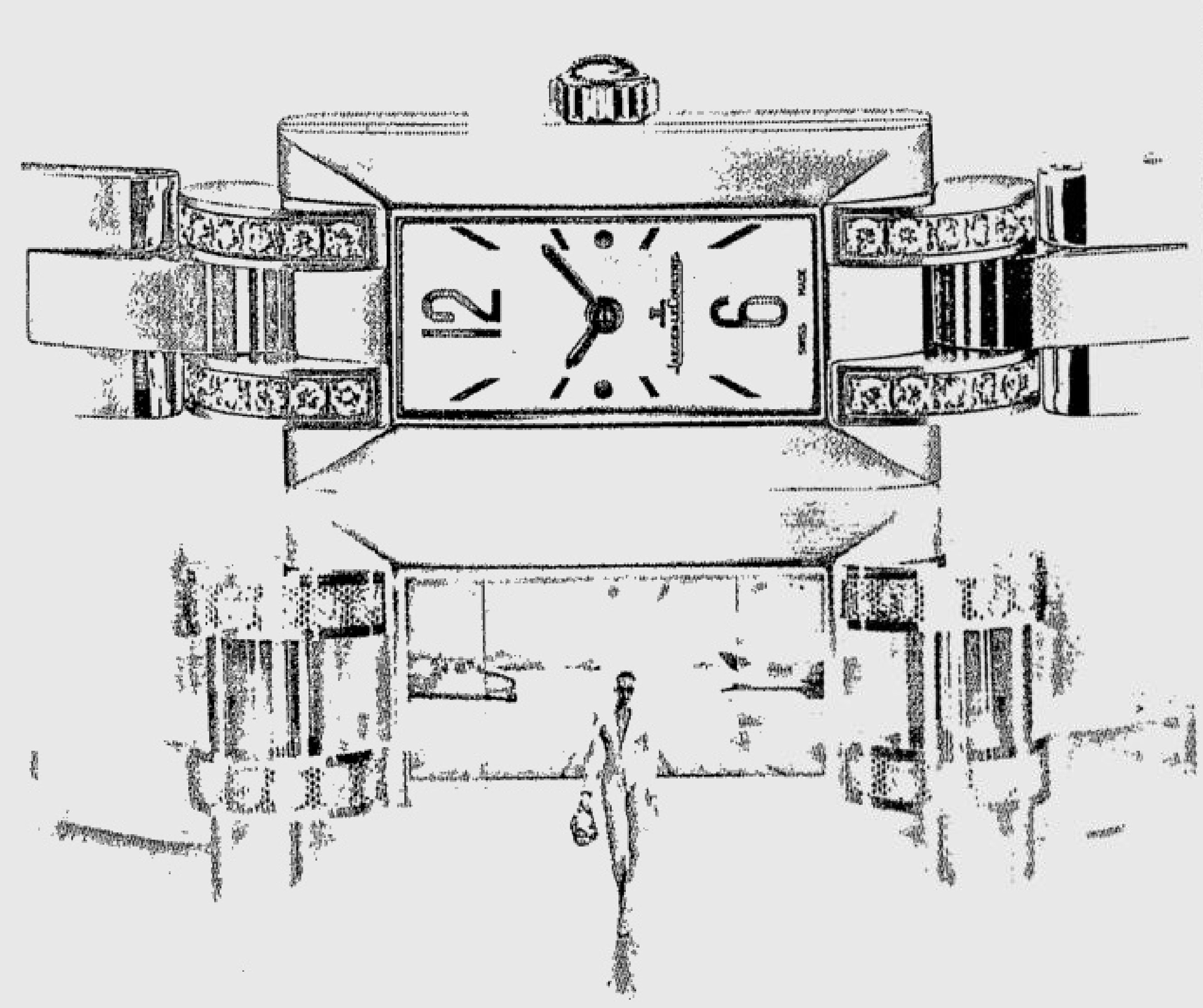

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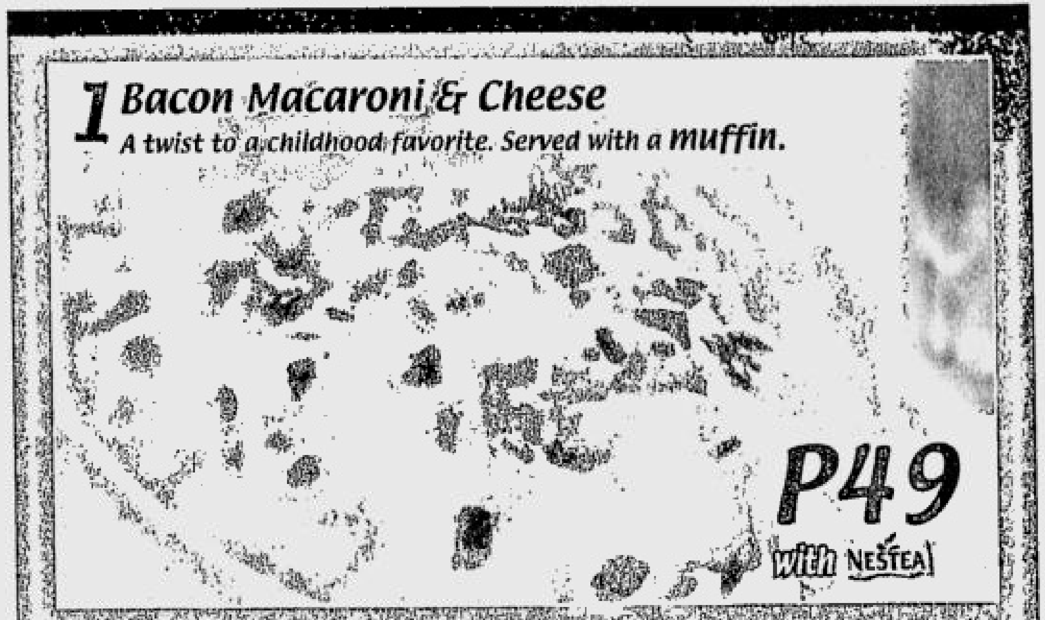

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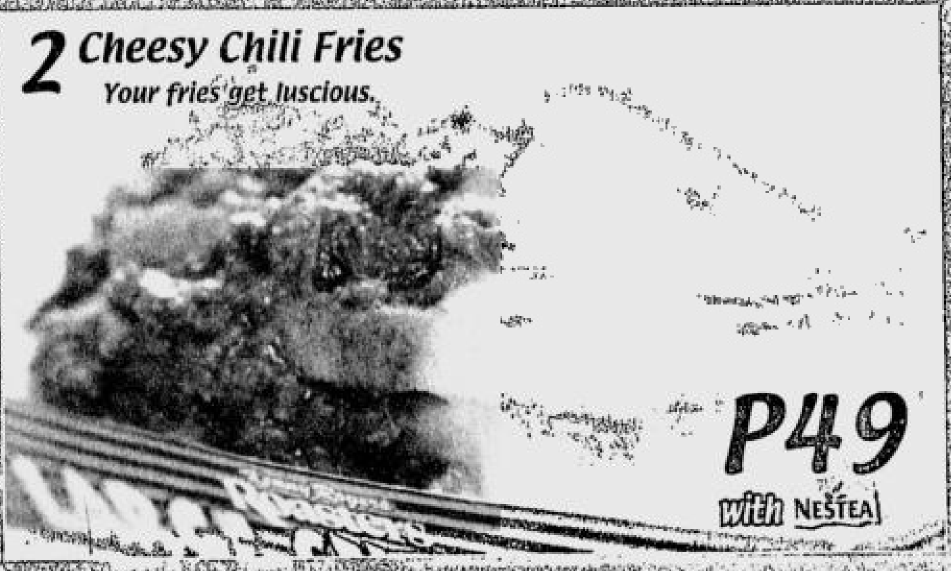

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PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY

2ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

"HOT TOPICS IN CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY"

OCTOBER 1-2, 2005 DUSIT HOTEL, MAKATI CITY

MESSAGES

Malacañan Palace
Manila

My warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) as you hold your 2nd Annual Convention.

Your theme, "Hot Topics in Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology," is in line with our efforts to further increase the 69 million beneficiaries of healthcare services throughout the country. Through the re-enrolment program of 30 million indigents in the Administration's health insurance system, we have provided the most impoverished among us access to quality healthcare.

I urge you to join me in my various initiatives that will benefit our people particularly the underprivileged. Let us all share the burden so that our country could truly make an economic take-off.

I wish you more fruitful endeavors in the years to come.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the members and officers of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as you conduct your 2nd Annual Convention on October 1 & 2, 2005.

In the past two decades, we have witnessed rapid advancements and major inroads towards the improvement of our country's health situation. These were made possible through the collaboration of various organizations and agencies in the health sector, in partnership with the Department of Health as the lead national agency.

I therefore commend the PACCD for your unwavering commitment to the cause of promoting and protecting our people's health, being one of the leading lights in the movement towards conceptualizing, creating and developing health systems which would provide quality and ethical dermatological care for our people.

FRANCISCO DUQUE III, M.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

The Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association extend heartiest best wishes to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology on the occasion of its 2nd Annual Convention.

We at the PMA are quite upbeat to join you in generating interest and participation in the scientific session on the theme " Hot Topics in Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology." We hail your continued commitment to the upgrading of knowledge and skills in cutaneous medicine and to the professional development of dermatologists in the country. We wish you every success in this worthwhile undertaking.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology!

MODESTO LLAMAS, M.D.
President, Philippine Medical Association

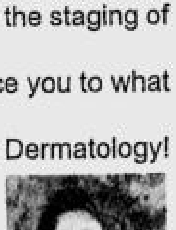
At first, we were no more than individuals brought together by sheer happenstance. Then, upon realizing the necessity of speaking with one voice and adopting a common stand, we formed an alliance. Our early experiences inevitably transformed us into what we are today a professional society committed to the advancement of clinical and cosmetic dermatology.

We are only on our second year, and yet we can already brandish a few notable accomplishments among which are: the successful staging of a colorful and well-attended first annual convention last year, a series of modular training program for members who have yet to complete 3 years of the required training in dermatology and to top it all, the induction of thirteen full-fledged Diplomates.

We now add another milestone to our initial successes with the staging of our 2nd annual convention.

Join us then, fellow practitioners, as we attempt to introduce you to what is currently "hot" in the field of clinical and cosmetic dermatology.

Long live the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology!



ANGELINA P. AQUENDE, M.D,
Chairman- 2nd Annual Convention
Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology

A warm welcome to the delegates of the 2nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology. It is nice to be able to greet old friends again and meet new ones. Time is precious enough to build a lasting relationship to help us grow in values, ethics, and professional life.

Because of the overwhelming success of our convention last year, there has been an increase in the favorite topics of Dermatologic Cosmetic Surgery and enough time will be allotted to maximize interaction between the speakers and the audience.

The highlights include Immunomodulation, Melanosis, Varicose and Spider Veins, 2nd Generation IPL, Dermabrasion, Hyperpigmentation, Sclerotherapy, Vitiligo, Psoriasis, Fat Transplant, Antioxidant, Thread, Perlane/Restylane and Intense Pulse Light Treatment.

Perhaps the most important effort this year is the planning of direction that our Academy will take us, as we enter the new century.

I can not conclude my remarks without also thanking Dr. Ma. Luisa G. Santos and Dr. Angelina P. Aquende, Dr. Lydia G. Cruz, Dr. Ma. Victoria O. Lantin, Dr. Leonila Sacdalan, Dr. Anilie C. Anastacio, Dr. Onessa D. Lacaba, Dr. Rosario Divina R. Perez, and Dr. Lourdes T. Olalia and their members who served faithfully as Academy and Annual Committee Convention officers who volunteered their time and talent for the betterment of the specialty and my family for allowing me to take the time to serve you.

Finally, I thank you, for the honor you bestowed upon me as your President to lead the Academy.

DR. VINSON B. PINEDA
President, PACCD

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST OF DERMATOLOGISTS, 2005

All are active official members of the Philippine Medical Association. The Accreditation & the Board of Specialty of PACCD endorses the names of Specialist Dermatologists, Diplomates, Fellows, Regular & Associate Members.

Pillars of: Love, truth, honesty, integrity, humility, unity & good relationship.

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Abutin, Benicio S.
Acop, Reena Claudine M.
Acosta, Restituto C.
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Albano, Lucita Cleotilde S.
Alipio, Alma S.
Almazan, Eva S.
Alumno, Norene S. Laureano
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Andaya,Olivia M.
Antonio, Eileen E. Espiritu
Aquende, Angelina T. Pagsibigan
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Buencamino, Maria Gloria Sunga
Buhain, Mary Stephanie D.
Bumanlag, Aileen Johanna C.
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Cabrera, Jocelyn V.
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Cajucom, Narelia E. Cruz
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Callao, Elaine A.
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Camiling, Ruby Flora T. Cembrano
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Cariño, Grace L.
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Cayetano, Christine L. Ty
Cayone, Rorrie V.
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Chua, Catherine J.
Chua, Sheila E.
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Collado, Amelia M. Rejano
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Coronel, Resel M. Aguila
Cortel, Fatima C.
Costales, Shalee S.
Cruz, Caroline P. Tabernero
Cruz, Isagani C.
Cruz, Lydia F. Gumogda
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Cruz, Olivia L.
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De Leon, Marydith C.
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Delos Reyes, Lily Ann D.
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Desacada, Charito R.
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Diccion, Mary Jones Adela
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Evangelista, Judy Irene M. Manalo
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Fajardo, Ma. Consuelo S.
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Fernandez, Amalia D.
Filart, Magdalena Cubilla
Florido, Eleonor Bauzon
Floro, Cynthia S.
Fong, Carina F.
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Gan, Jane Q. Tiu
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Garcia, Ma. Consuelo T. Zamora
Gaspi, Ma. Theresa C. Magsalin
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Go, Ana Carmela G. Felizardo
Gonong, Annabelle A. Guevarra
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Gonzales, Roel M.
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Lantin, Ma. Victoria A. De Ocampo
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Lapuz, Daniel S.
Laurel, Ma. Lourdes
Lim, Joy Fe T. Almagro
Limon, Celerina A.
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Lo, Rosemary B.
Lope, Maria Eugenia G.
Lopez, Georgina P. Lim
Lopez, Lourdes E. Senica
Lugue, Adelina D.
Lunar, Agnes L.
Luna, Norma C. Cruz
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Macaranas, Marilyn S. Roleda
Macatangay, Jocelyn E. Nolasco
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Makatangay, Lyna S.
Makiling, Teresita Helen V.
Malan, Marianne S.
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Martinez, Eileen Catherine D.
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Mendez, Joel C.
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Mendoza, Ronnie C.
Mojica, Cristina M.
Mojica, Teresita M.
Mongcal, Herbia Joy Gonzales C.
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Mundin, Nympha S.
Mungcal, Victorio C.
Munoz, Beryl Margaret A.
Nario, Ida
Navarro, Caroline Y.
Ngo, Celestina C.
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Ramos, Agripina C. Diaz
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Razon, Teresita Epifania R.
Reyes, Aileen B.
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Rivera, Amor Josefina A.
Robledo, Elsie J.
Rodelas, Ana Marie A. Evangelista
Rodriguez, Ma. Clara B.
Rodriguez, Ma. Irwina B.
Romualdez, Ana Liza L.
Roque, Mario Solomon P.
Ruiz, Dino Carlo M.
Ruiz, Ethel L.
Rustia, Marissa Jessica S.
Saavedra, Angelina L.
Saavedra, Ma. Lorraine B. Hernando
Sabater, Rodolfo I.
Sacdalan, Leonila D.
Salcedo, Ma. Victoria D. Trinidad
Sanchez, Ma. Rebecca S. Gavino
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Santiago, Marissa S.
Santiano, Ma. Lourdes O. Santos
Santos, Ariel S.
Santos, Etheldreda D.
Santos, Francisco G.
Santos, Jocelyn C. Oreta
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Santos, Ma. Victoria V.
Santos, Marilyn S. Dela Cruz
Santos, Mary Liza D.
Savella, Luvisminda C.
Seen, Concepcion V.
Serrano, Frydai L.
Sevilla, Ma. Concepcion D. Joson
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Soriano, Roeliza O. Quiambao
Talampas, Pomona M.
Tamayo, Mercedes A. Sequera
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Tan, Maria Blessilda Borja R.
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Tuazon, Glady M. Lim
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Ty, Manuel C.
Ungpakorn, Rataporn
Urbano, Dalie A. Sarmiento
Villarta, Maria Teresa O. Qui
Valones, Baby Helen L.
Valones, Myrna B. Agtina
Velasco, Mirasol
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Villanueva, Tita Lina C. Onate
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Villasor, Rona Grace V.
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NEW MEMBERS:
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Javier, Monina R.
Lo, Aileen S.
Manarang, Anna Florence Y.
Marcos, Marie Anne M.
Mata, Gustavo O.
Regalado, Sharmaine J.
Sanchez, Dave Elvin G.
Tangente, Joseph L.
Veloria, Mary Ann Grace L.

NEDY Tantoco, Raul Manzano and Menchu Tantoco Lopez

UK household brand comes to the Philippines

ISABEL Preysler (third from left) with daughters Ana, Tamara and Chabeli

MARILOU Tantoco Pineda

From page D1

aren't traveling or shopping abroad so much, so they buy their luxury stuff here. SSI has over 45 designer brands, including Gucci, YSL. Now it's opening the British brand Debenhams in a 1,000-sq m space in Edsa Shangri-La Mall in November.

According to Anton, they'd been scouting in different markets abroad for new trends. Four years ago they saw the serious potential of bringing Debenhams to Manila because "of its various stylish offerings, all value-for-money. Their designer brands are relatively low-priced yet good names. It's a better value proposition."

Debenhams, founded in 1778, is a famous institution. It is a household name in Britain. Its range includes clothes, fashion accessories, bed and bath products, infants' and children's lines. Among its designer labels are Matthew Williamson (Butterfly), Jasper Conran (J), Julien Macdonald (Star). Williamson and Macdonald, as you must have read a few times, are favorites of Hollywood stars. Williamson is known for the Eastern, particularly Indian, bent in his designs.

Toward the end of year, SSI will hold special events for its other brands such as Lacoste and Kate Spade. (We heard that Anton got to meet Lacoste endorser **Andy Roddick** in New York last month, when Roddick graced a Lacoste event during the US Open.)

SSI is part of the Tantoco retail empire. It was a pleasurable experience to have a Sunday dinner with two generations of Tantocos at their Forbes home. Anton's mom, **Nedy**, organized the dinner. The Tantoco siblings, who have taken over from their mom **Glecy**, the Rustan matriarch, were there—**Rico**, **Marilou** and **Ed Pineda**, **Menchu**, **Marilen**, and the third-generation Tantocos—Anton, **Donnie** and wife **Cricket**, **Dino**, **Katrina** and beau **Paolo Lobregat**, and **Maricar** (Lopez-Tiangco).

Isabel Preysler

It was Nedy's thank-you dinner for Metro Society led by its editors, **Lia Bernardo**, **Raul Manzano** and **Philip Cu-unjieng**. Shortly after, Lia pulled yet another coup—a shoot and interview with one of the world's style icons, **Isabel Preysler**, who must be the most famous Filipina jetsetter in the world.

After she moved to Spain, Isabel married **Julio Iglesias** in 1971 when Julio was a Real Madrid soccer player, way before he became the music icon worldwide. They have three children, including **Enrique Iglesias**, yes, *the* Enrique Iglesias.

They divorced later. Isabel is now married to the former finance minister of Spain, **Miguel Boyer**. Isabel has always lived in Europe and is a favorite cover girl and luscious spread subject of high-society rags such as Ola.

Lia twisted her dad's arm to snag the exclusive photos for Society. Her parents, Ambassador to Spain **Lani** and **Conchitina Bernardo**, are good friends of Isabel.

Something struck me in the Preysler story. It's what ex-hubby Julio said about her: "She is not only the most beautiful woman on earth, she is also the best mother in the world."

Cesar's shoes

Tonight is the launch of **Cesar Gaupo's** Spring and Summer '06 Shoe Couture for John Kenner, at Ayala Museum. This is Cesar's first foray into shoe design—a move prompted by Cesar's realization that women, while having shoe fetish, often don't give as much thought to their shoes as they do to gowns.

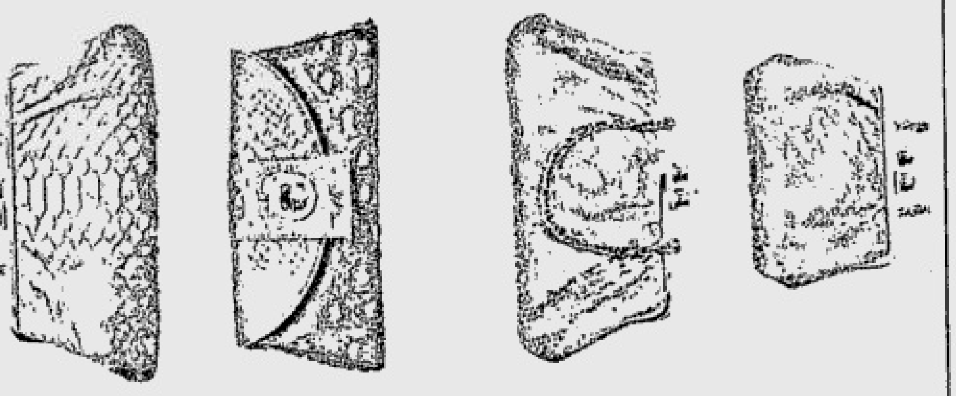
"Not everyone remembers to bring shoes, for example, to fittings," said Cesar.

Cesar will exhibit 40 pairs of shoes. What a welcome departure from the corporate marketing-induced clothes collections that are now the vogue.

Now on Vogue. The premiere issue of Men's Vogue with **George Clooney** on the cover is the biggest fashion buzz. When will the next issue come out? When Conde Nast chair **Si Newhouse** gives the green light. But more on this next week.

After her photos snorting cocaine came out in the Daily Mirror in London, **Kate Moss** lost some of her lucrative jobs, notably H. Stern, Chanel, Burberry—the latter two's campaigns are just winding up. Standing steadfast behind the übermodel, however, are the editors of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, from Paris to America. They announced that they would continue using Moss, saying this was the time to help her (lick her habit), not isolate her.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph



TORTOLLA. Olivia and Nia in petal tortoise embossed python, also in nuage and camel tortoise embossed python; Olivia and Gemma in camel tortoise embossed python, also in nuage tortoise embossed python

Luxury in a clutch

THIS FALL, KATE SPADE launches Kate Spade Collect, a collection of limited-edition bags and shoes brought to a new level of opulence.

Among the standouts are a snap-frame evening clutch in delicate, tortoise-embossed python; a cinched hobo in chocolate suede and patent leather with a strap made out of gold vermeil chain; and high-heeled peep-toe platforms in metallic violet leather and snake.

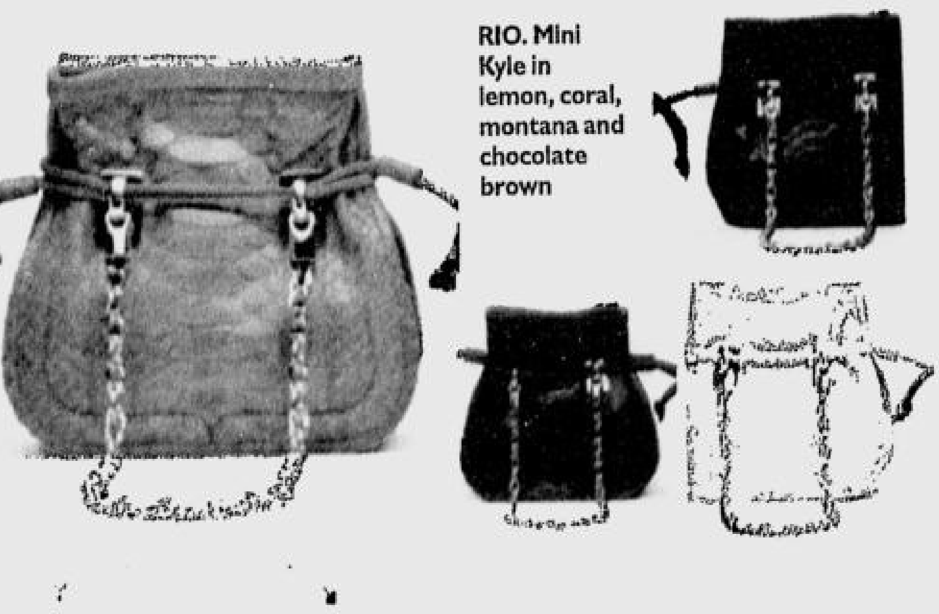
"I've collected so many wonderful, one-of-a-kind vintage pieces over the years," Kate Spade. "I wanted to offer women something equally special. We named the line Collect, because it's about women collecting things that they love."

Skins and shapes are given the luxe treatment in this line of bags and shoes, all made in Italy. A short haircalf doctor bag gets an extra glint with a metallic embossed cheetah print. A leather-trimmed rectangular bag recalls a man's toiletry case, giving a sporty touch to decadent skin.

As playful as the colors and shapes of the bags are, Spade has fun with scale, too. A selection of sweet, framed miniatures are meant to be popped inside a larger bag.

Though the richness of the pieces is evident, there's nothing fussy about them. "Women today are so expressive in how they accessorize, and glamour is no longer limited to big-deal occasions," says Spade.

On most bags, hardware has a new prominence, with plenty of gold (and some nickel) to catch the sun. Kate Spade Collect pieces may have an after-hours sensibility, but wear them with jeans, and they're still terrific.



RIO. Mini Kyle in lemon, coral, montana and chocolate brown

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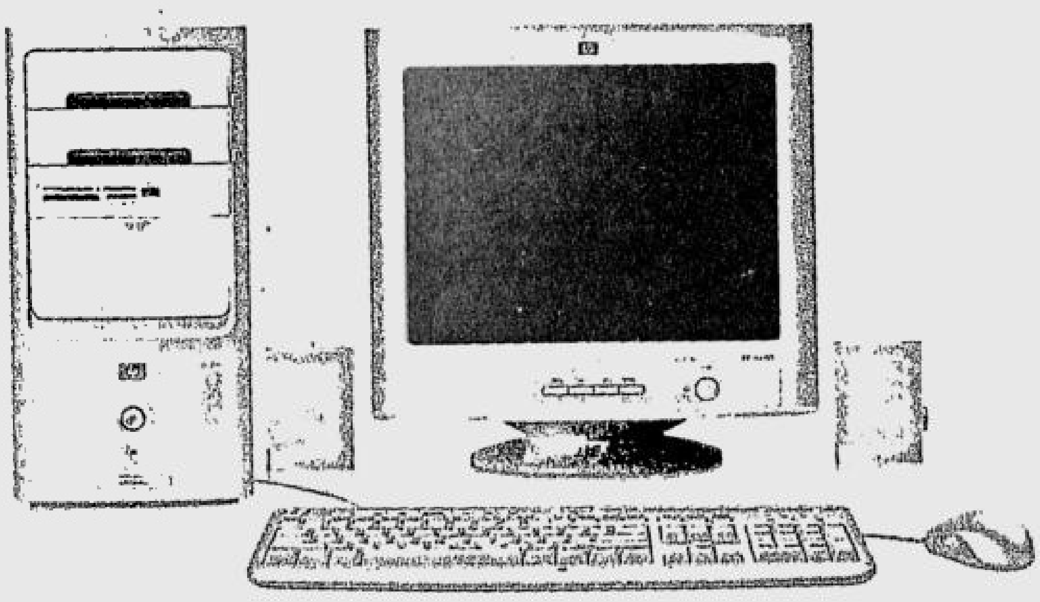

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Promo raffles off brand-new car

GOINGS ON

PLAZA Fair's "Handog Pasasalamat" raffle promo will be held today at 5 p.m. in Plaza Fair Makati. The grand prize winner will bag a brand-new Toyota Corolla. Consolation prizes include home appliances and gift certificates. Shoppers can also purchase items for home improvement at very low prices at the Hardware Lobby Sale until Oct. 30.

CONCERT. The St. Paul University Manila Guitar Quartet and Ensemble, under the music direction of maestro Jose Valdez, take center stage today at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

BAZAAR. The United Nations Development Fund for Women Bazaar is slated on Oct. 1 and 2, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Proceeds will go to Unifem, a fund to improve the status of women and foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Call 8106703/8446981/8166326.

TRADE FAIR. The Department of Tourism's Philippines' Bests! presents "Dabaw: Island to Highland Adventure, Culture and Nature" until Oct. 2 at Clamshell 1, Intramuros, Manila. Trinkets, handbags, home decor, fresh fruits and dry goods are on sale.

FILM FEST. The European Union and Shangri-La Plaza presents Cine Europa 8 at Shang Cineplex until Oct. 2. Admission is free. Call 6332227.

CONCERT. Jeff Herrera (guitars/vocals), Ted Panganiban (bass/vocals), Brian Medrana (guitars/vocals) and Aji Adriano (drums), collectively known as the Torpedo, open the October calendar of Concert at the Park on Oct. 2, 5 p.m. Venue is the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

TRADE FAIR. The 12th National Arts and Antiques Show is ongoing until Oct. 2 at Greenhills Shopping Complex.

SEMINARS. CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: "Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills" (Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Time Management" (Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-12 noon); "Handling Stress and Pressure at Work" (Oct. 6, 1-5 p.m.); "Warehouse Management Seminar" (Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

CHRISTMAS FAIR. The 12th Philippine Toys, Gifts, Housewares and Christmas Decor Fair will be held Oct. 7-Nov. 4 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex.

FAMILY SHOWS. Eastwood City has lined up events for the family every Sunday until Oct. 9, 3-6:30 p.m. The events include Amazing Bubble Show, Dog and Monkey Show, acrobats' show and pet blessing. Call 6876770.

SEARCH. Online game pioneer Level Up! announces a metro-wide campus search for Rose It Girl. Until Oct. 14, nominations will be open for female students who are 13-18 years old, with good academic standing and active Rose players. Nominations can be done online at www.roseonline.ph. The search will culminate in a party on Oct. 29.

THE SANTA Isabel College Music Alumni Association recently presented Viva Musica as part of the music department's celebration of its 75th year. Performers included Venecia Tamayo, Bernica Tuason, Emely Jane Mahipus, Cecile Basilio-Roxas, Patrick Reyes, Karl Echaluse, Ma. Regina Montesclaros and Hannah and Hugo Hua.

JOB FAIR. The Call Center Philippines 2005 Job Fair will be held Oct. 15-16 at Expo Trade Hall of Festival Supermall, Alabang. Call 8253482/8250804.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will conduct a basic photo course starting Oct. 16 in Intramuros. Call 8435341/ 8137320.

KIDDIE EVENTS. Registration is ongoing until Oct. 28 for the Anime Scare in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and The Brick Road. The first 400 kids to register will be accommodated. Registration for Fright Night at the Movies costume contest for 13 years old and above is also ongoing until Oct. 23. Finals will be held Oct. 29. Call 6815401 to 19.

FUNDRAISER. The Character Building Foundation Inc. will hold a fund-raising concert on Nov. 4 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call 8905321.

WORKSHOP. Summit School is conducting a workshop on How Children Think: Implications in Preschool and Elementary Education with Dr. Ma. Emma Concepcion Liwag on Nov. 4 and 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The workshop will be held at Summit School, Bonifacio Global City, University Parkway, Taguig. Call 8819032 and 9034.

PHOTO TILT. A photo contest on corn farming has been launched by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation. Entries can be submitted on or before Nov. 7 at FPPF, 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. Call 8137420/ 8435341.

PRESENTATION. The Martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal: A Light and Sound Presentation is scheduled Wednesday to Sunday, 7-7:30 p.m. in Tagalog and 8-8:30 p.m. in English. Admission to the presentation is priced at P50 (general public) and P25 (student with valid ID). Call 3027374.

FITNESS PROGRAMS. Free fitness programs like belly dancing, aero-Latin dance and tai chi are offered by Gym Plus, located at the 2nd floor of Metropolis Star, every Wednesday and Friday, 3 p.m. Call 8504752.

LAUNCH. The Ateneo Professional Schools has launched its quarterly magazine Frontline. Interviewees for the 56-page issue vary from the private sector and government to the medical field and the academe. Topics include cyberhacking, crossover leaders facing the bureaucracy, alternative lawyering, health care workers in barrios and new perspectives on business. The mag is distributed in the APS campus in Rockwell Center.

Award-winning designer holds seminar Sept. 30

KARIM RASHID, A LEADING INDUSTRIAL designer and cultural shaper, will conduct a design seminar, "Beautiful Shrinking World," on Sept. 30, at the Assembly Hall of Every Nation Institute, The Fort, Global City, Makati City.

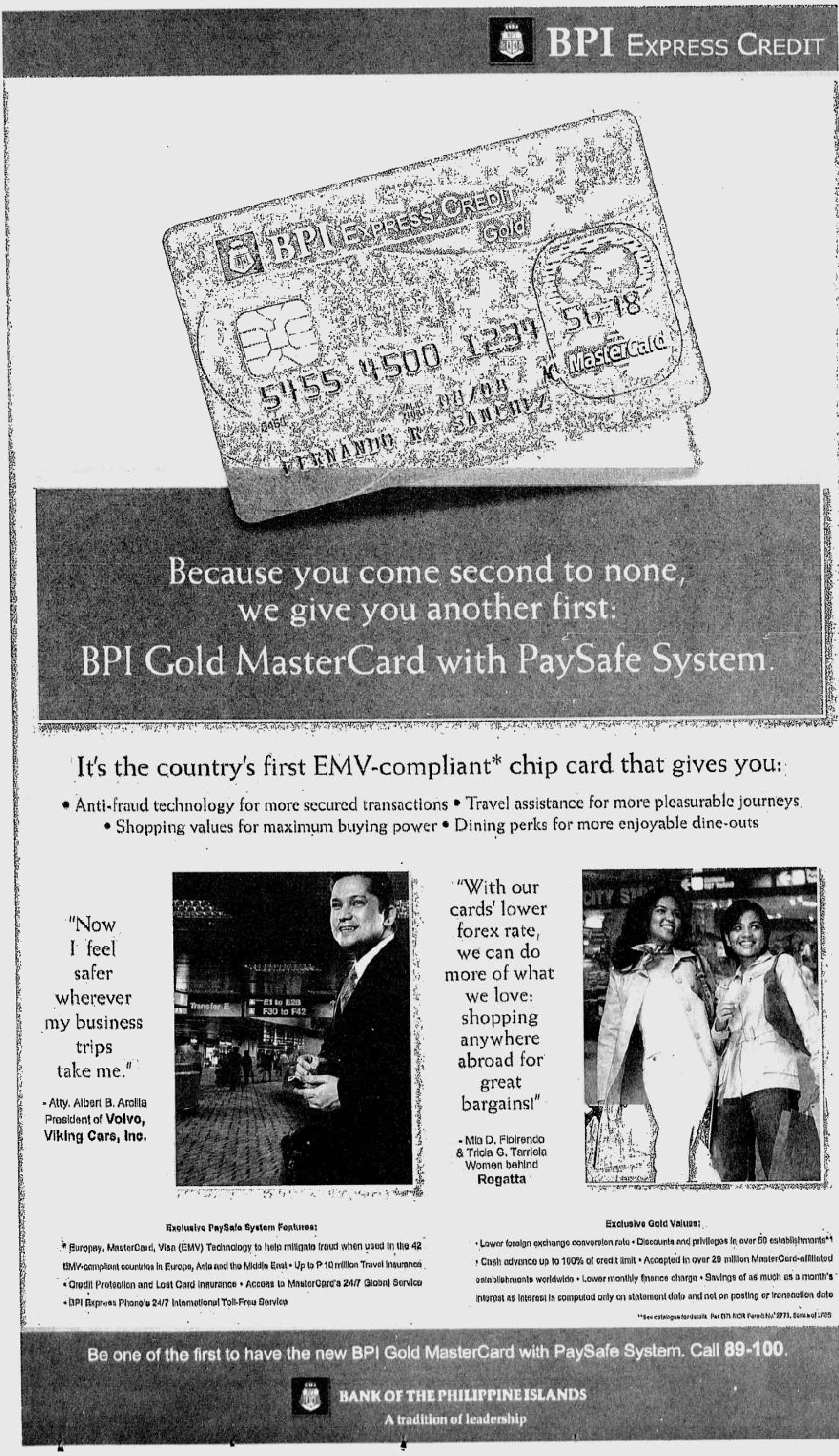
The New York-based Rashid, a multi-awarded furniture designer, will give his furniture design forecast and discuss how to maintain beauty in designs in an ever-changing world.

Rashid's clients includes Umbra, Issey Miyake, Prada, Nambe, Magis, Mikasa, Edra, Frighetto, Herman Miller, Foscarini, Artemide, Idée , Bozart, Shiseido, Giorgio Armani, Leonardo, Nienkamper, Yahoo, Zerodisegno, Copco, Method, Guzzini, and Danese.

His cutting-edge pieces may be found in the homes of Hollywood celebrities such as Kevin Spacey, Missy Elliot, Patricia Arquette, David Eigenberg of "Sex and the City" and Kelly Osbourne, as well as other top personalities.

Rashid's seminar is organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, a non-profit association of Filipino furniture and furnishings manufacturers and exporters. The seminar is supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, CIDA Pearl 2, INQUIRER and Inq7.

Tickets cost P2,800 each, including handouts and *merienda* for professional designers and exporters. Design professors and students pay a subsidized rate of only P600. Students who will bring two paying professional participants, get free admission. Call 6329007 or e-mail djeguia@cfipnet.com.



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Women behind Rogatta

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**See catalogue for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2773, Series of 2005

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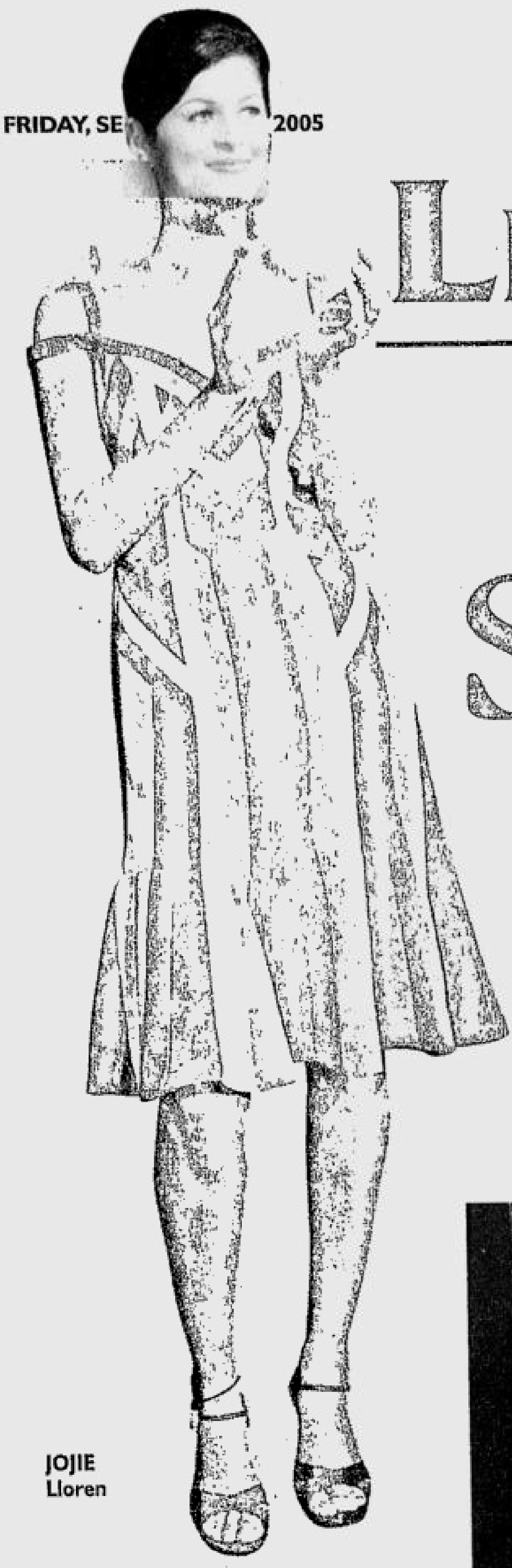
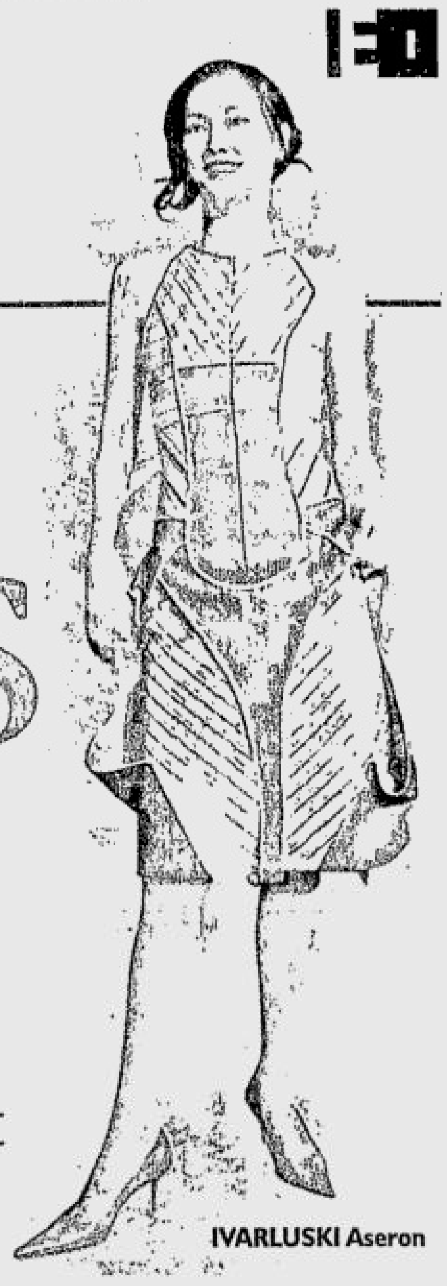
LIFESTYLE

Lucky stripes

Metrobank's 'M Here card party showcased creations by six of the country's most in-demand designers



JOJIE Lloren



IVARLUSKI Aseron

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE INVITE, PRESS RELEASE and even the program voice-over said "Stripe Night" would unveil *collections* of six of the country's most in-demand designers.

Stripes, of course, in keeping with the theme set by the evening's host, Metrobank Card Corp., which was toasting its new credit card sporting the 'M Here striped logo. The designers' lineup, indeed, was enough to tempt fashion watchers into braving the Friday night traffic to make their way to the Makati venue.

Of course, guests should've been clued in there's no way a full collection showcase—of six designers at that—could fit in the 50-seater My Cinema in Greenbelt. But then the creative movers in the industry (this time it was director Jackie Aquino) could be trusted to pull off even the impossible. So you couldn't blame the guests for expecting this was one of them.

By the time the show started, it was an SRO crowd, with a couple of dozens more lined up at the cinema lobby. (The fashion show was the curtain-raiser for the new Drew Barrymore flick.)

Alas, there were only six clothes, one by each designer. The show lasted less than it took a guest to get from the ground floor to the fourth-floor venue. Left high and dry, some reporters joked they'd probably mention the event just as an addendum to some other fashion story.

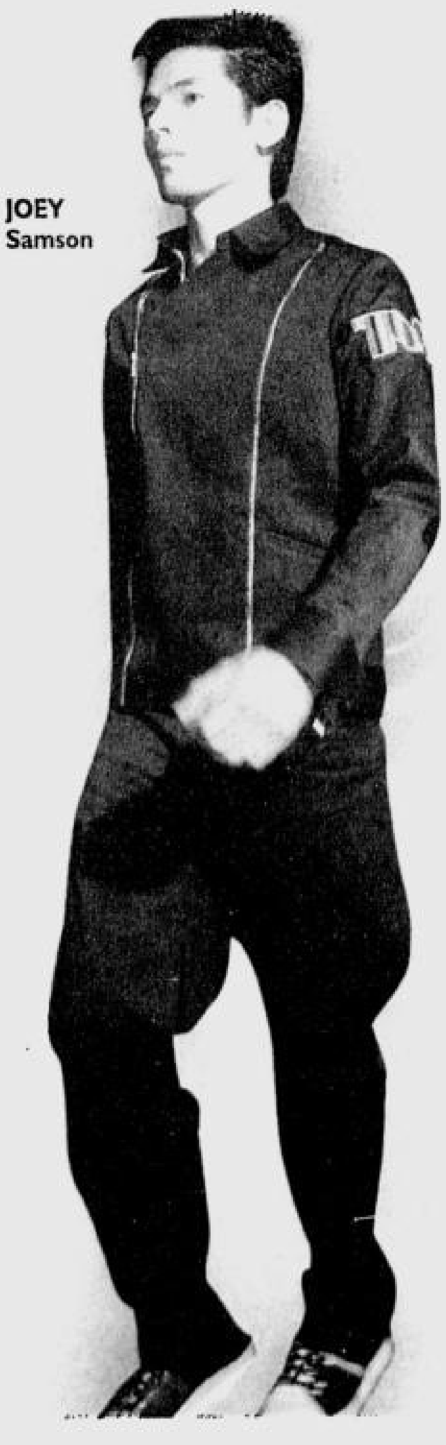
Then again, after all's said, the participating designers made it all worth it for the guests who dutifully donned their own striped duds for the event.

Resourceful

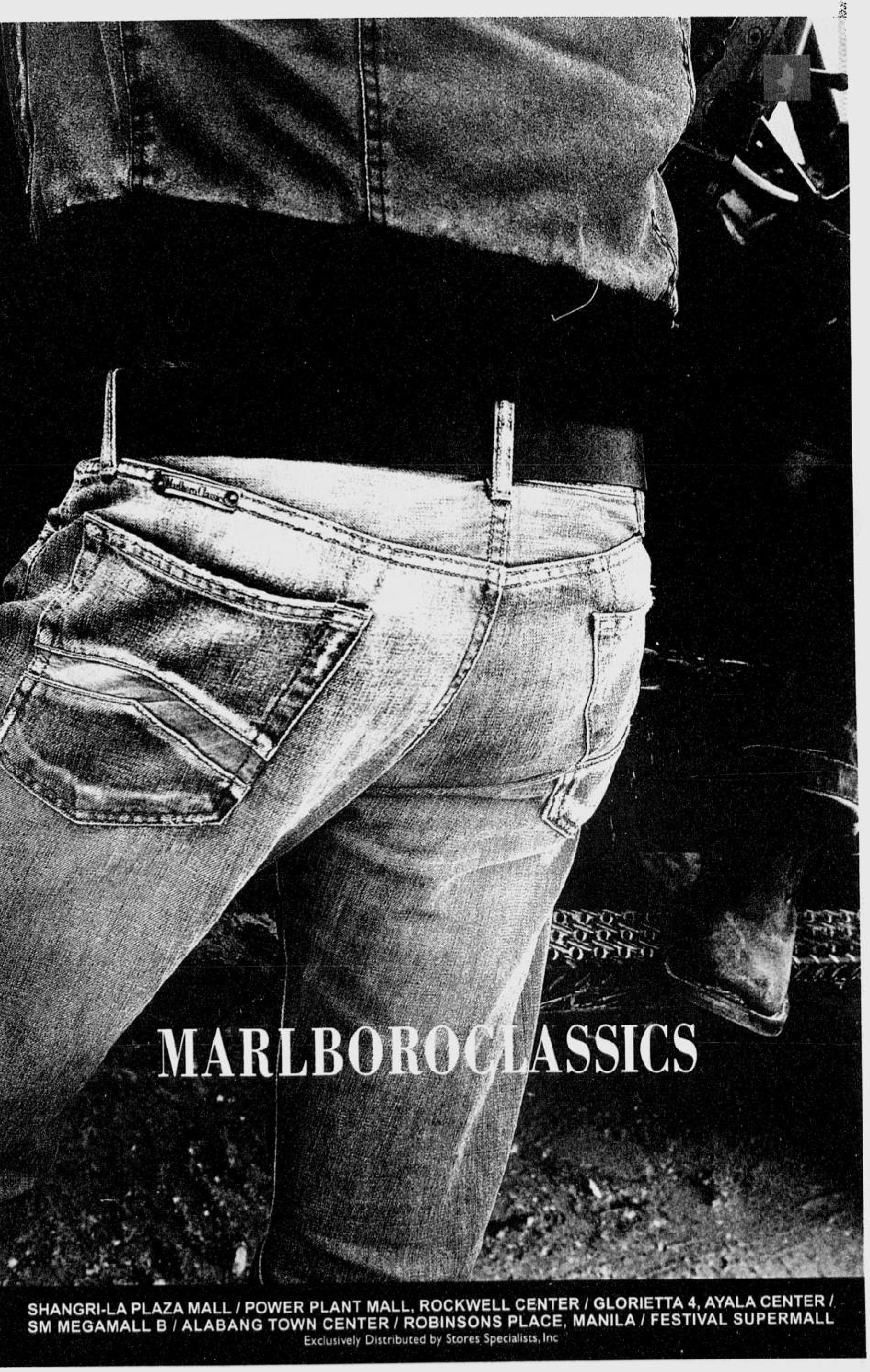
Never one to take the easy route, Jojie Lloren sewed together bright strips of crepe to achieve his striped material. Ever resourceful, he found the exact shades of the card logo in his fabric coffer. The resulting piece was pretty and sweet, a fresh contrast to his signature tailored look, though the structure is unmistakably Lloren. He later intimated, with a chuckle, that the Metrobank people asked for something "wholesome."

Not a fan of patterned fabrics himself, Ivarluski Aseron yielded to the theme by mixing denim cutworks with striped cotton fabric for his architectural if feminine piece. The striped parts were pieced diagonally in

LUCKY/E3



JOEY Samson



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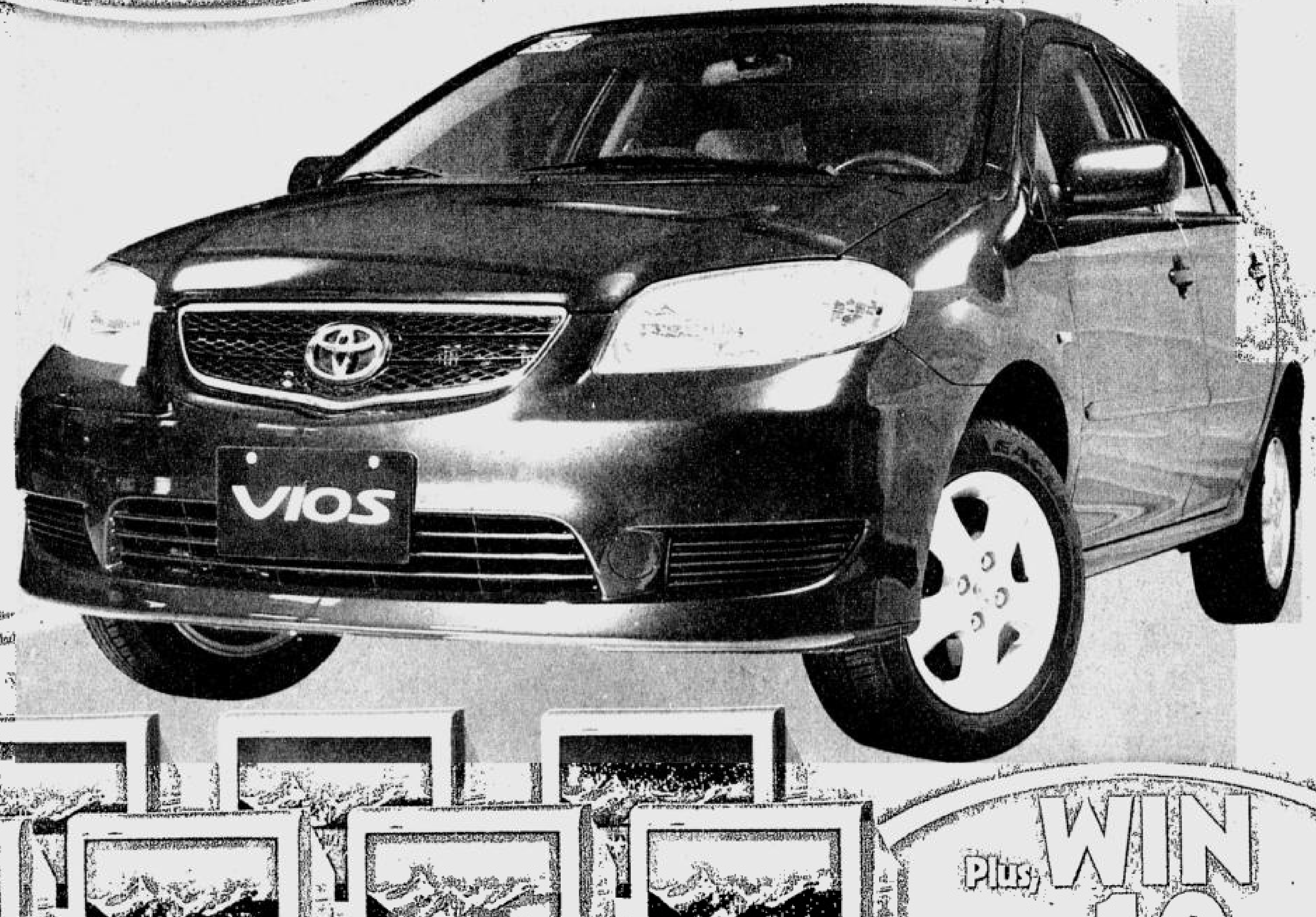

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-753 Series of 2005
See Flyers for details.

DENNIS Lustico

AVEL Bacudio

Lucky stripes

From page E1

ward for a streamlined form. Orange satin piping added luxe to the dress.

The lone gown came from Dennis Lustico—a simple fuchsia chiffon number with a hand-pleated bodice and beaded straps, in a striped pattern, naturally. Having gained favor from the stylish set, Lustico said that, finally, he no longer had to beat himself mad over coming up with clothes that aimed to wow a crowd (*hindi na kina*-careeer, in street speak).

Avel Bacudio made an orange-and-aqua boned corset with cape and a miniskirt of five-shade, Post-It-like layers.

Menswear came from Joey Samson and Randy Ortiz. The young Samson showed a zippered twill jacket with a custom-embroidered 'M crest on one sleeve. For this young man, pants are never just pants. The pair was cut to extend outward, creating flaps on the back, so that the sides had no seams.

Ortiz's pinstripe hooded jacket and pants were stitched in the featured card's colors—blue, pink and orange.

RANDY Ortiz

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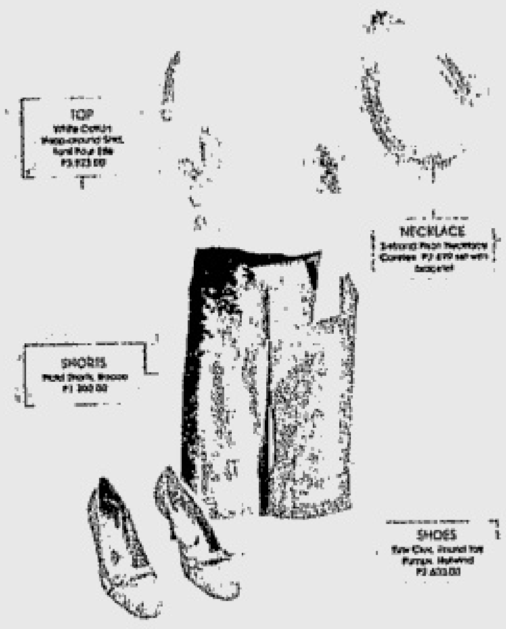
Truly niche fashion

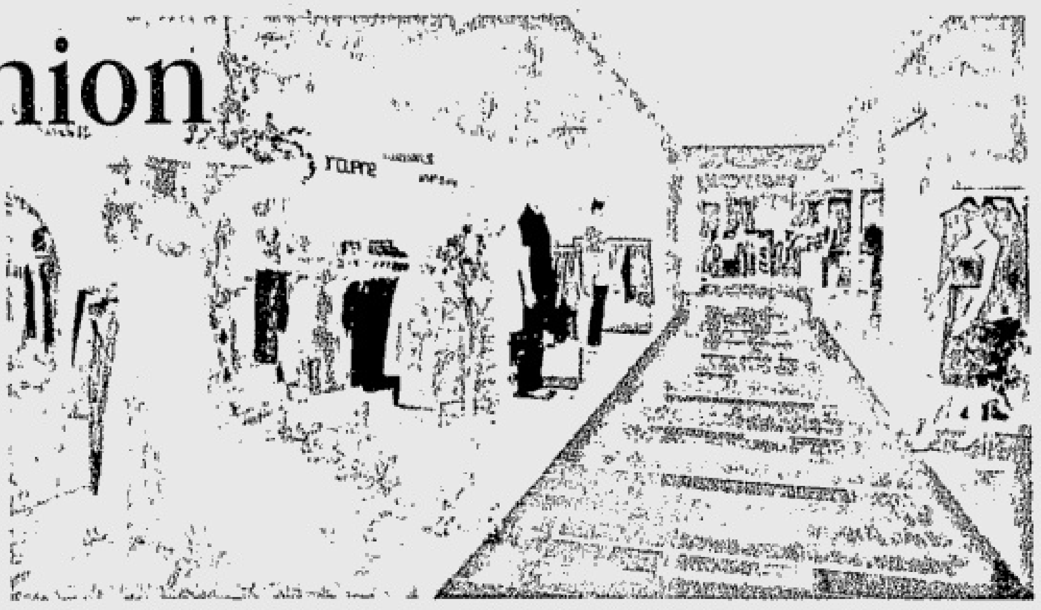


CROSSINGS DEPARTMENT store opens a new fashion avenue called The Ramp, a shopping district filled with quirky boutiques and designer ateliers in the heart of a department store.

Located at Crossings' second level, The Ramp features up-and-coming local labels such as Wildflower, Seven Dials, Dressing Room and United Pop (a preppy-chic new line by designer Richie Ortega). Brands in the works include Vado by Puey Quiñones and Rocco by Tina Navarro.

Also in the mix are all-time foreign favorites like Buffalo Jeans, Free People, Tant Pour Elle, CMG glam, Levi's, Dockers and Urban & Co. New shoe brand Hotwind joins the list as well.

Crossings Department Store is part of the National Book-Store Companies and has branches in Shangri-La Plaza, Quezon Avenue and C. Raymundo, Pasig.



THE RAMP on the second level of Crossings Department Store

A fresh face for a trendy brand

SINCE IT FIRST HIT THE fashion world, Bum Equipment has been a style staple especially among young talented celebrities from the entertainment industry.

Known for its comfortable denim bottoms and colorful tops, Bum Equipment has introduced a pool of matinee idols who became image models for the brand. Its first few billboard and print campaigns captured heartthrobs Raymart Santiago, Keempee de Leon, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Juddah Paolo, Cholo and John Barreto, Josh Santana and Danilo Barrios sporting the trendy yet practical pieces from Bum Equipment.

Among the lady endorsers have been Raven Villanueva, Heart Evangelista, Jill Yulo, Carla Humpries, Valerie Martinez, Star Circle Quest Batch 11's Genstar and RnB princess Kyla.

The newest addition to this string of beautiful faces and promising talents is "Starstruck" Survivor Batch 2 LJ Reyes.

Her career in the entertainment industry took centerstage when she joined the top-rating talent search show, "Starstruck."

"I've always wanted to join show biz, but there was really no opportunity for me. It was only when a friend of mine and I auditioned for 'Starstruck' that this dream took shape," says the 17-year-old LJ.

Almost a year since she first made her debut on the boob tube, LJ has become television's most endearing sweetheart. She is busy with tapings for shows like "Love to Love" (where she is paired wit Mike Tan) and "Sugo." Just recently, LJ also played lead in the drama series "Now and Forever."

LJ is also busy with her academic work. Soon to be a freshman at De La Salle University, she plans to take up a double degree in Communication Arts and Finance.

How does she juggle studies and work? "In everything that I do, I really plan things. Like in handling my time, I just make it a point that my work schedule does not conflict with my school, and vice versa," she says.

The newest addition to Bum G's pool of endorsers is in every respect a fitting image model for the brand. Her versatile and easy-going nature immediately puts Bum G's teen apparel in the list of this young actress' list of fashion must-haves.

Bum G's wide range of tees and denims gives LJ countless options in putting together that super "Starstruck" look. "I really like how the shirts of Bum G are simple but can look really cute and nice. It really suits my personality."

LJ REYES, "Starstruck" Survivor Batch 2

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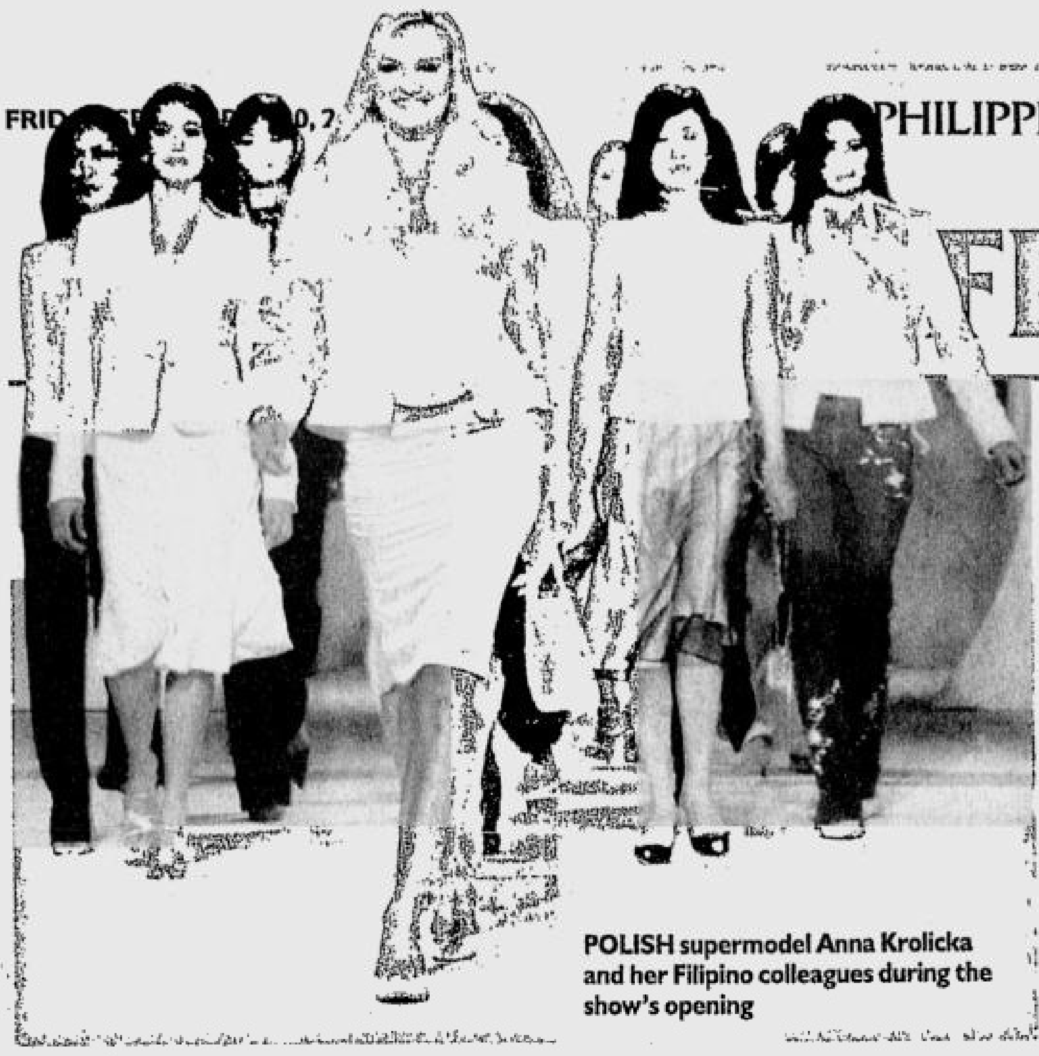


POLISH supermodel Anna Krolicka and her Filipino colleagues during the show's opening

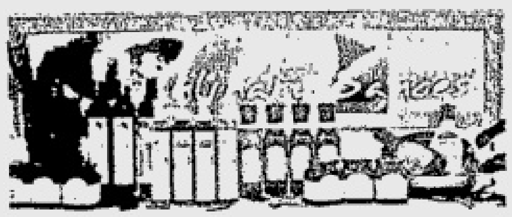
Whiff of German luxury

Escada's pricey gowns and dresses say tons about the timelessness of style

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IN THE END, ONLY THE jeans, dresses, twin sets and three-piece suits featured in Escada's recent fashion show stayed. The luxury brand's mind-bogglingly expensive gowns, trench coats and fur-trimmed leather jackets were eventually shipped back to Germany.

WHIFF/ F2



A TASTE OF FRESHNESS FROM RUSTAN SUPERMARKET

As Rustan Supermarkets marks its 35th anniversary this November, it will once again take the lead as the pioneer in the food retail industry with the launch of something deliciously new from Rustan's Fresh.

Conceptualized in 2001, Rustan Supermarkets saw the need to introduce a new and exciting "supermarket shopping experience" which involved all the 5 senses: sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. In the past, supermarkets had a tendency to focus on their dry grocery goods, while their fresh department was overlooked - and unfairly situated - in the back of the store.

Four years ago, Rustan Supermarkets sought to change this practice by opening its first Rustan's Fresh at the Rockwell Center's Power Plant mall. Since then, it has managed to create a truly unique shopping experience where fresh goods get the attention they truly deserve.

The launch of TASTE at Rustan's Fresh builds on this pioneering spirit by offering its customers a new twist to supermarket shopping.

Located at Rustan's Fresh Makati, TASTE will offer Manila's most discriminating gourmands, foodies, and health buffs the most extensive variety of premium specialty foods from the best food cultures of the world: French, Mediterranean, Japanese, Thai, Mexican, Italian, Spanish, American and Indian, among others. From packaged foods, imported dairy and deli to health and organic products, its extensive imported food section will feature a complete range of choices for every discerning consumer.

On September 22, TASTE will present "A World of Taste," a culinary demo, interactive cooking show, and lunch at Yum Yum Tree in Makati, where each of the guests will be given "passports" to explore and discover the wonderful world of TASTE.

Using ingredients exclusively available at TASTE by Rustan's Fresh Supermarket, two celebrity chefs - representing two distinct global cuisines - will serve each course to the guests as it is prepared in-store.

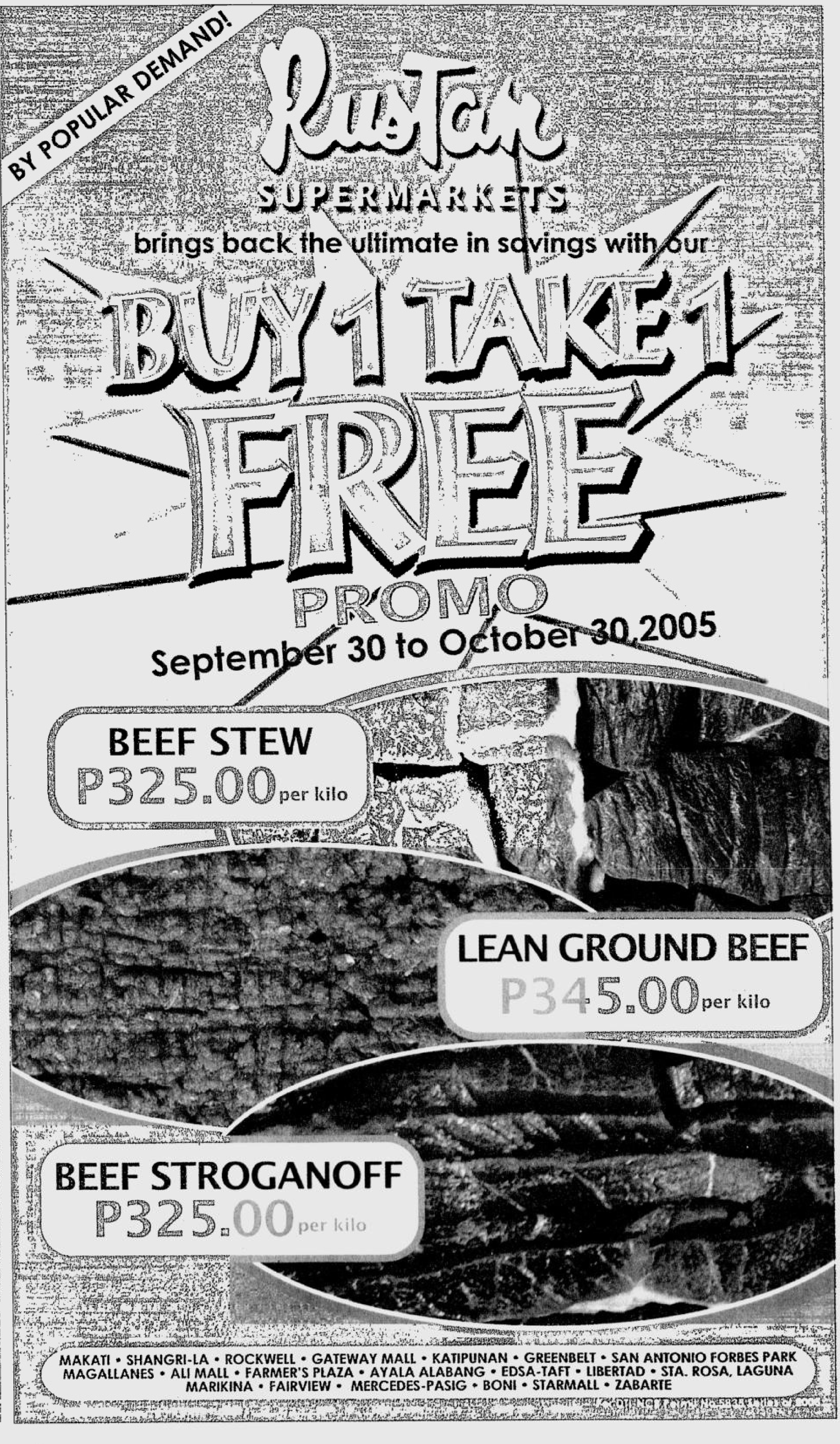
Margarita Fores, whose passion for Italian cooking is evident in the success of Cibo and Pepato, will prepare an enticing Italian appetizer as well as a main entrée. "TASTE is such a joy for food lovers like me, thanks to its wide assortment of international ingredients," shares Fores. "It will surely widen my repertoire of dishes and help get my creative juices flowing. My goal has always been to showcase the best of the Philippines, both the talent and the produce, alongside with the best the world has to offer. TASTE will certainly help me see this through."

Le Souffle's Jessie Sincioco, on the other hand, will serve a gastronomic sampling of fine French cuisine in the form of a delectable dessert and another main entrée. "TASTE makes cooking a lot easy and fun because you have all the ingredients from all over the world in one shop," she says.

According to Maricar Tiangco, Rustan Supermarkets VP for Marketing & Merchandising: "TASTE is a haven for foodies! It brings together the best culinary food items from Asia, Europe, and America. TASTE also has a wide assortment of health and organic products. So whenever you're in the mood to indulge in your passion for food, TASTE is the place for you."

Take a tour of the world's finest gourmet items - from Japanese to Mediterranean, to healthy and organic. If it's at the tip of your tongue, it's all here in TASTE!

ADVT.



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LEATHER and fur

READY for fall

TRAVEL in style

LEATHER and prints

MONDRIAN-INSPIRED shift dress

LACE overlay

Whiff of German luxury

From page F1

Escada and sportswear brand Puma were among the companies which participated in the recent "German Month," a highlight of which was a fashion show at the Westin Philippine Plaza. German ambassador to the Philippines Axel Weisshaupt opened the show, which featured, among others, Polish supermodel Anna Krolicka.

As GM of Euromode, the exclusive distributor of Escada, Escada Sport and Laurel in the Philippines, Marilou Koa earlier flew to Munich to personally select clothes for the show. Most of these pieces are now available at Escada's Shangri-La Mall and 6750 outlets. The gowns, however, are a different story. Fans of Escada would have to fly to the world's major fashion capitals to get one.

Koa had to borrow gowns from Escada's latest collection because they were simply priced beyond the reach of the local market. With price tags ranging from P200,000 to P300,000, it's easy to understand why even the most moneyed fashionista would have second thoughts of buying a slinky, semi-beaded Escada gown designed by German Brian Rennie.

Escada's more affordable items are by no means cheap, either. Jeans can set you back by P18,000, while slacks start at P20,000 a pair. A three-piece suit, which could go as high as P100,000, is already a bargain next to the wool jacket (P70,000) or the classic twin set (P60,000).

They're wearable, indeed, but not a few of Escada's pieces meant for the more mature woman (for who else can afford such prices?) were a tad too basic to merit such prices. Koa believes otherwise. Every thread and button that make up an Escada apparel is worth its weight in gold.

Ideal investment

"Admittedly, Escada isn't for everyone," she says. "But for people with money to spend, Escada is an ideal investment especially when they go on business trips abroad. It imparts a certain pride to its wearer because most of the people she deals with are aware of what she's wearing."

Escada's current offering ranges from form-flattering power suits in feminine colors such as pink to knitted shift dresses in various shades of green. Romance was definitely in the air, as the show directed by Raymond Villanueva also featured a number of skirts, dresses and tops made of dark lace and tulle overlay. The granny look is alive and well in a few tweedy pieces fit for the office.

But short and stocky Filipinas, beware! Escada's gowns consisted mostly of semi-beaded and sleeveless chiffon and jersey columns meant for the tall and toned woman. For the show's finale, Krolicka, dolled up in boa feathers and all, glided on the ramp with a floral-beaded serpentine cutout.

"Of course, some of our best designers can do similar gowns at a fraction of the price," says Koa. "But perhaps the best they can do is to derive inspiration from such pieces since certain raw materials used for embellishing Escada gowns are either too expensive or hard to find. A company with Escada's clout can easily get them."

Apart from the superior materials and workmanship that go with each piece, Koa vouches for Escada's superb fit, choice of colors and adherence to classic lines. Such features enable even the most obscenely pricey clothes to seamlessly cross over the fashion seasons.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BEADED trims on this peach number

OFFICE staples

LACEY skirt

BOA feathers are optional.

FLORAL beaded cutout

BEADED and strapless

HAUTE COUTURE. White sheep feathered ball skirt and leather draped top accented with Swarovski cummerband and mother of pearl

AVANT GARDE. String-sewn top made of used credit cards with Swarovski stones, and asymmetric leather skirt matched with thigh-high boots

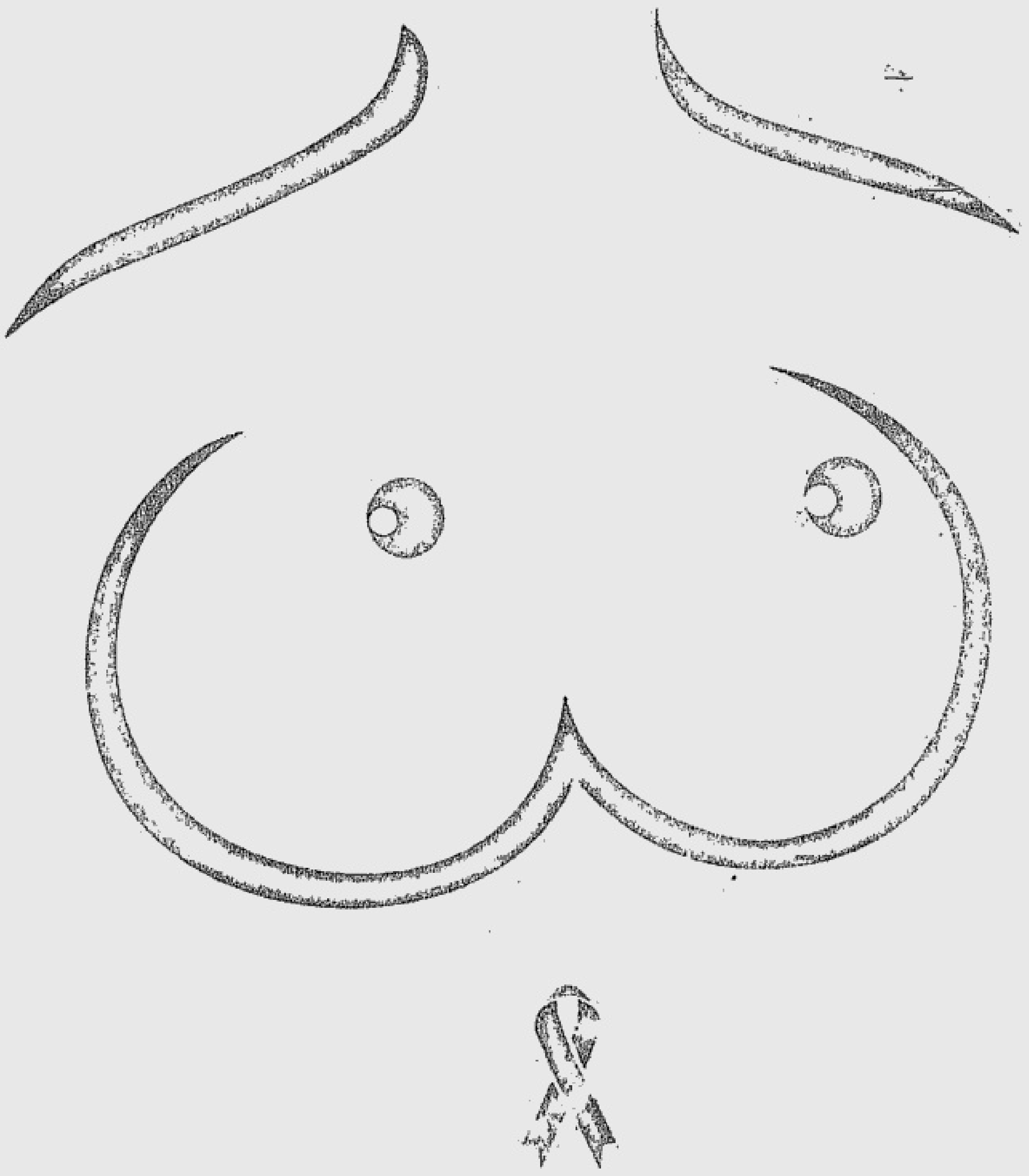
Beauty through the lens

SOME 30 FILIPINO photographers will exhibit their works at the Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati, today.

The likes of Donald Tapan, Jun de Leon, Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Chito Vecina, Dominique James and Angie da Silva are among the shutterbugs participating in the event, which is sponsored by Fuji Film. Some lensmen will interpret the different moods of women through visual photography.

For his photo collection, Tapan collaborates with couturier Eddie Baddeo, who provides fashion pieces and accessories. The shoot utilized the Department of Tourism Building, with top mannequin Grace Tagle modeling. Image styling was done by Eric Maningat of Studio 546.

DENIM CHIC. Bustle gown in deep-blue silk denim with one-sided purple yarn feathers and fuchsia leaves wraparound on sleeve



All breast lump are c ious.
Breast cancer is mainly a genetic disease.
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Fact or fiction? Keep abreast.

Ignorance kills. A woman can lose more than her breast to breast cancer. Studies show women die of breast cancer every 13 minutes. Be informed. Be aware. Keep abreast, as doctors and health experts will be giving valuable facts about breast cancer and advice on the importance of early detection in prevention. Knowing fact from fiction could very well save you from this dreaded disease,

Seminar Schedules:-
October 1: 9am-12nn, October 15: 9am-12nn, October 22: 2-5pm, October 29: 9am-12nn at the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell. ADMISSION IS FREE.

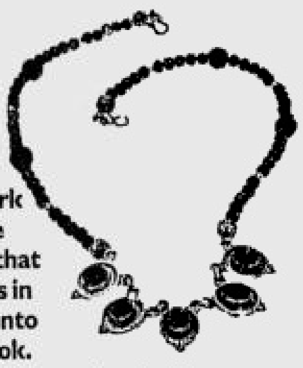
For inquiries, call our Wacoal Customer Service Hotline: 884-1517 or email us at philwacoal@skyinet.net

*For the benefit of the Philippine Foundation

Wacoal

SPRUCE up your office wardrobe basic with an interesting accent and be ready to receive compliments.
Pinstriped skirt (P1,780), available at Iora

PAIR a classic cut with a very feminine—and comfortable—material and you've got yourself a surefire wardrobe favorite.
Sheer orange top with plackets and ruffled collar (P3,380), available at Fornarina



FOR an instant shot of style and glamour, work some unique accessories that are artworks in themselves into your daily look.
Jadeite, cat's eye and malachite necklace with silver beads (P800), Sweet Pea

WHETHER peep-toed or pointed, it's the heel that matters in the climb up the corporate ladder.
Black peep-toed slingbacks with blue piping, purple-and-lilac suede pump and black peep-toed heels with metallic detail, prices available upon request at VNC

Window shopping

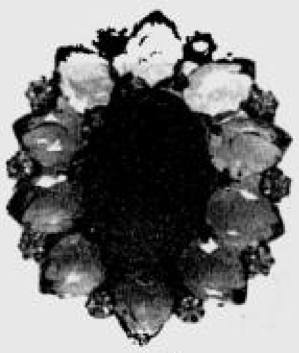
Luxe be a lady

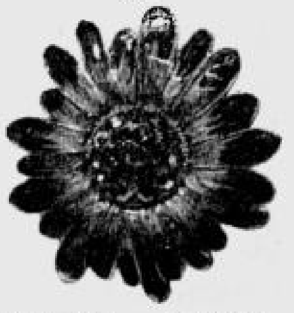
By Shirley Oh and Beia Formoso
Contributors

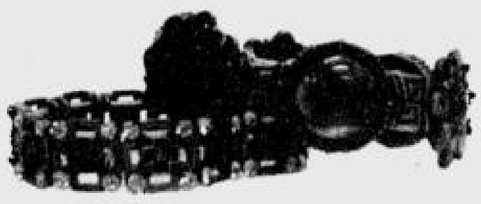
WORK wardrobe need not be stiff or boring. With just the right touches of the latest trends—Edwardian chic! Cropped pants! Ornate neckpieces!—you can give an extra oomph to your office look without the risk of breaking the dress code.

A minor caveat: Work only one trend at a time and always put a premium on the C-factor. For those eight-hour working days, comfort is definitely needed.

For your fashion fix, visit Iora at Glorietta 2, Robinsons Galleria and Rustan's Shangri-La. Check out the latest collection of Fornarina at the second level of Gateway Mall. Grab one-of-a-kind bags and accessories at Sweet Pea, located at Unit C-1 Courtyard Bldg., 26 Sgt. Esguerra St., Diliman, Quezon City (tel. 4123499).







CRYSTAL brooch (P550), "Daisy" brooch with crystal accents (P650) and vintage-style bracelets with semi-precious stones (P550), all available at Sweet Pea

HIGH neck? Check. Ruffles? Check. All the right elements of Edwardian chic minus the starchy stuffiness.
Striped halter cover-up with floral ruffles (P4,480), available at Fornarina

GARNET necklace with assorted crystals and faux pearls (P980)

HAS all the trappings of the very current cropped slacks and the ease of your favorite loose-fit trousers.
Brown culottes with paneling and floral trim (P1,890), available at Iora

SNAKESKIN "Pawa" belt with bow detail (P1,500), available at Iora

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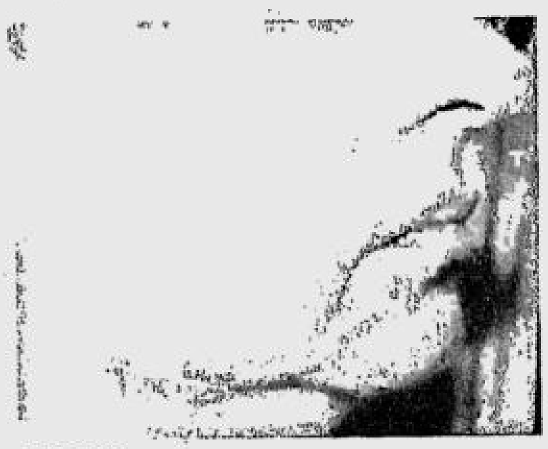
LIFESTYLE Beauty


BEFORE

AFTER

Those who notice a slackening of face areas even before 40 due to unhealthy living or sun exposure can have Thermage at once

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perks, privileges,
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You're in good hands with METROBANK

More about Thermage

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SINCE MY column about Thermage was placed beside a half-page advertorial for the treatment with Albert Martinez as the endorser, I have received a lot of e-mail about it.

MORE/ G3

Denise Joaquin
Movie/TV Personality

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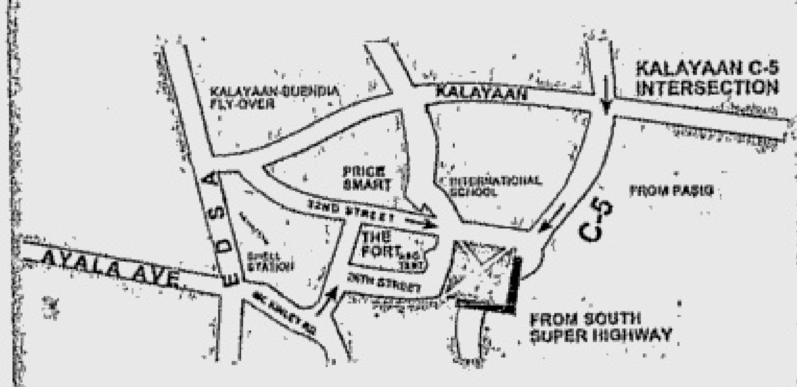

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WORLD travelers back from their late summer vacations abroad. Multi-faceted businessman Choy Cojuangco, Linda Oledan, Carla R. Tengco, Cecille Reynoso Atienza, Johnny Velasquez, Vicky Fernandez Zubiri and Maripi Muscat

GANG OF SIX. Top architect Anton Mendoza, *moi*, Johnny V., businessman Al Tengco and renowned interior decorator Mike Sandoval

HOTEL hotshots. Sigi Bierbaumer, Makati Shangri-La's resident manager; Tom Zita, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines chair ; Jarlath Lynch, Makati Shangri-La general manager; and Shang Palace staff members

Lunch reunion at the Shang

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS A SUPERB "WELCOME BACK" get-together at the fabulously renovated Shang Palace of the Makati Shangri-La, *palanggas*.

Since many of my special *palanggas* had been away (I myself had been traveling), we thought of a reunion party! **Linda Oledan** was back from New York, ditto with **Johnny Velasquez** and **Maripi Muscat**.

Al and **Carla Tengco** had arrived from San Francisco; while glam gal **Vicky Zubiri** had just been to San Francisco and Paris.

Missed was **Edouard Garcia** who just got back from San Francisco but who had to rush to Bacolod. Also missed was **Lucy Lizares**, who had been to Rome, Barcelona and Monte Carlo, but who had to rush also to Bacolod.

Maridel Villavicencio had just arrived from New York, but before you could bat an eyelash, was off to San Francisco.

Not intending to miss the grand opening of Shang Palace, we all decided to see with our very eyes how the Makati Shangri-La had transformed the Chinese restaurant's traditional courtyard-style interiors into something eye-catching and contemporary.

We were welcomed by a tall receptionist sporting a china-doll hair style and wearing a **Rajo Laurel**-designed uniform. We walked through the ostrich leather-paneled walls to a *trés* elegant private function room.

The table setting was admirable; it had a beautiful black-and-gold show plate matched with eclectic red tea cups.

The menu was simply to-die-for, *palanggas*, with all the new dishes added to the traditional Chinese-Cantonese cuisine the restaurant is known for. After all, the place now has two new talented Shanghainese chefs.

Appetizers were Crispy Deep-Fried Bitter Melon with Spicy Garlic; Eggplant with Gravy; and a number of adorable animal-shaped dim sum.

The soup was extremely healthy, Braised Bean Curd with Diced Garoupa. This was followed by Deep-Fried Prawns with Salty Egg Yolk and Pan-Fried Beef Roll with Golden Mushrooms. Everyone raved over these two dishes.

Sautéed Fillet of Garoupa in X.O. sauce was next. Followed by Stir-fried Minced Vegetables with Pine Nuts served with Lettuce and Fried Rice wrapped in Lotus Leaf, which definitely had a superb flavor and aroma.

And to cleanse our palate and digest all these yummies, we ordered a hot dessert, "double-boiled Hasma with red dates and lotus seeds."

And then, the whole gang couldn't get enough of the divine moon cake with lotus cream and salted red eggs. That really topped the great lunch.

One thing's for sure, *palanggas*, everyone agreed that Shang Palace, with its awesome new look, its new and excellent menu, and its unbeatable dim sums, will be seeing more patrons. I just can't get enough of Shang, dahlings.

Baby's birthday

We also went to the great fun party of vivacious **Baby De Jesus**, who celebrated another year of her hectic but beautiful life at the yummy Alfiere Italian Restaurant of the popular Westin Philippine Plaza, the hotel by Manila Bay, *palanggas*.

With a sumptuous open buffet and a fine performance by **Joy Viado**, everyone had a blast.

Heading the pack of guests were Makati Mayor **Jejomar Binay**, **Jimmy Laya**, former senator **Nina Rasul** and **Virgie Barbers**.

MAKATI Shangri-La Hotel's secret weapon Joy Wassmer and our town's top crawler Pepper Teehankee

Also seen at the party were **Louie** and consul **Mellie Ablaza**; consul **Helen Ong** and Monaco consul **Fortune Ledesma**; **Ernie Yu** and his wife, fashionplate **Fe Liabres**; **Ricardo** and **Pitang Tiongson**; **José** and **Evelyn Duran**; **Cha-Cha Camacho**; **Minerva Tanseco**; **Tess Pamintuan**; **Baby Perez-Sison**; **Fanny Blanco**; **Bert** and **Noni Basilio**; **Virma Vergel-De Dios**; CWC president **Linda Pastoral** and Rotary president **Ben Pastoral**; **Tito Tesoro** and his wife, vibrant **Patis Pamintuan**; southern lady **Norie Ongsiako**; **Lulu Castañeda**; **Gina P. Geraldez**; vibrantly active **Nini Layug**; **Alice Vitangol**; and others from the Catholic Women's Club.

Baby's husband, popular optometrist Dr. **Nandy De Jesus** and her children, **Jenna** and **Ika**, helped entertain the invitees.

Baby looked fab in a simple pink gown by **Inno Sotto**, while Dr. Nandy de J. wore a daring pink barong by **Patis Tesoro**.

Baby made sure the guests—in lieu of gifts—donate a *trés* favorable amount to two of her many charitable organizations—the San Carlos Seminary and the Mother Bonifacia Rodriguez Foundation.

A great gesture from a fantastic woman—Baby Trinilla de Jesus!

Cheers, *palangga*.

Tatler Ball

The hottest ticket in town and what promises to be the social event of the year is all set for tomorrow, Oct. 1, *palanggas*.

The country's only true chronicler of high society, the Philippine Tatler, natch, holds its annual ball to celebrate its fourth anniversary, at Makati Shangri-La's Grand Rizal Ballroom.

It is a by-invitation-only event, so gatecrashers be warned.

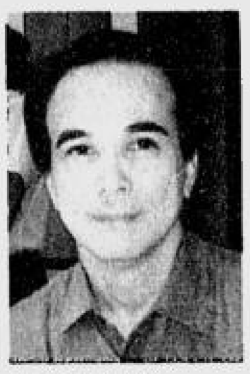
As in the past, the Philippine Tatler Ball is expected to be packed with the town's chi-chi *alta sociedad*, politicians, business hotshots, and A-list celebrities, dressed in their elegant best. And this year promises to be no different.

Highlight of the evening are the Tatler Awards, in which the magazine honors the most distinguished gentleman; most charitable force; the Pinnacle Award recipient; the patroness of the arts; the most eligible bachelor; the creative force; the style icon; and the *bon vivant* honoree.

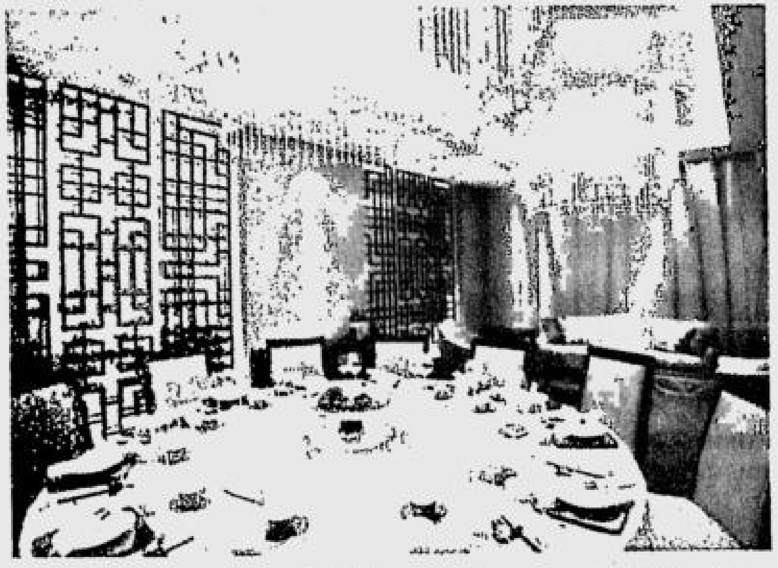
Who will get the awards? We'll find out at the Philippine Tatler Ball.

JOHN and Malou Bautista with Nora Robles

SOUTHERN royal woman Bibing Montelibano Villavicencio and lady of style Mary Ann Ojeda Lumen



FREDDIE Olbes

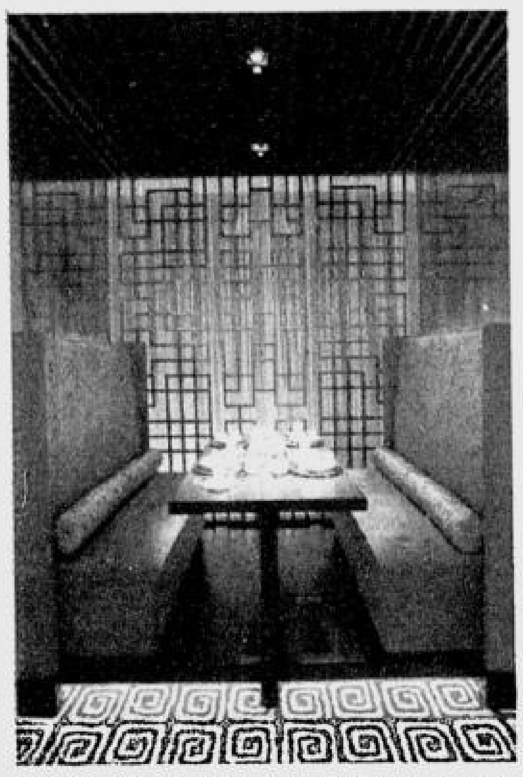


PRIVATE dining room exudes Chinese contemporary chic ambience.

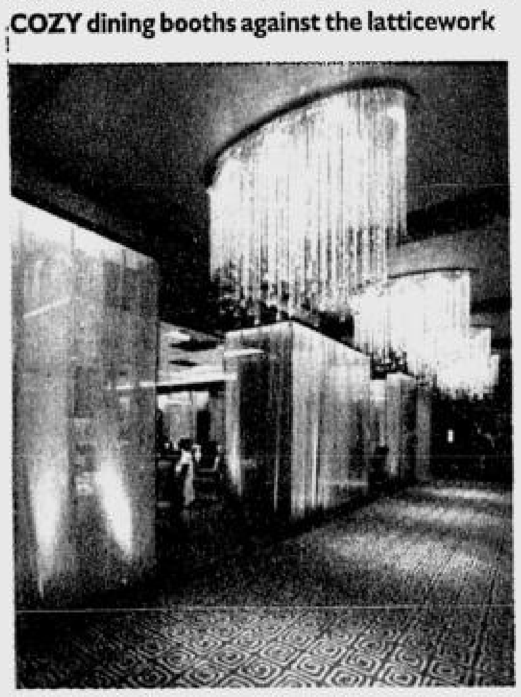
DE JESUS FAMILLE. Queen of the day Baby Trinilla de Jesus and husband Dr. Nandy de Jesus, with their children Ika and Jenna D.J.

THERESE Palanca, Baby de Jesus, popular couples Cecile and Randy Limjoco; and Linda and Ben Pastoral

TESS Briones and multilingual Southern lady Nori Ongsiako



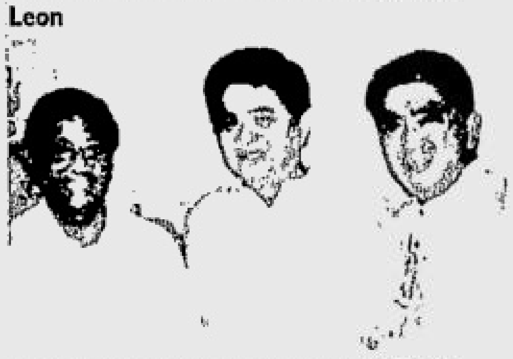
COZY dining booths against the latticework



ENTRANCE to the ultra-elegant Shang Palace with the view of the main dining area

BEN DE JESUS, Sing Santos and Virgie Barbers

GEORGE Cruz, Dodo Arevalo and Edi de Leon



MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay, Dr. Efren Palabyab and John Bautista

ALICE Dee

MINERVA Tanseco and Carla Santos

CHA-CHA Camacho, Ofelia Trinidad, Pilie Aquino, Inno Sotto, Lydia Reyes and Rosemarie Hugo. Seated: Lulu Castañeda, Baby de Jesus and Tess Castro

JANET Munji Jaudines; Emy and Tessie Munji, parents of Ayen Munji Laurel; celebrator Baby D.J.; Annabelle Adriano; and Baby Tan and husband Dr. Ed Tan

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE (right);
After (far right)

More about Thermage

From page G1

The article was the result of a dinner with several men and women who bombarded me with Thermage questions. Earlier, when they had learned of my age, they assumed I underwent it.

I asked Dr. Belo pointblank if I needed it because my cheeks and jaw line were not as firm and defined as they were in photos taken seven years ago. People around me had said my face was fine, but I know my face and no way was I going to wait for people to tell me: "Oh yeah, I do notice now!"

Vicki told me outright that I should ask her about that when I turn 40 because that's when the collagen fibers practically stop repairing themselves. Those, of course, who notice a slackening of certain face areas even before 40 due to a sun-worshipping lifestyle or unhealthy living can avail of Thermage at once.

To have recourse to it even before 40 is very rare, however, and those who insist on having it early would just be wasting their money because the improvement will not really be noticed, Belo said.

Many already know about Thermage due to the press: All it takes is one session, ranging from a few minutes to an hour, and you will see continuous improvement up to six months as collagen production stays stimulated long after the one session is over.

Those who feel they could still use more improvement could have it again after six months. It works by first cooling the surface of the skin with a computer-generated cryogen spray. Then high energy Radio Frequency (RF) waves penetrate deep down to the collagen matrix. This disruption causes the collagen to reform in a different way, tightening up over time.

Thermage is expensive, around P100,000, depending on how many areas you want treated. Since the improvements are gradual but noticeable people will not be able to tell you had something done. You need not take a long leave from work for surgical recovery. There are no stitches on your face or any sign of burning, tissue damage or trauma associated with strong acid peels and first-generation lasers.

What we don't know

1) Thermage may not be limited to the face and neck. It could also firm up other areas in the body such as the breasts, hands, arms, legs, thighs and buttocks.

2) Most Europeans and Americans opt to have it done wide awake, but it hurts! Anesthesia is not encouraged because it will lessen the effect and performance of the product. The good news is that the Belo clinic can sedate you upon request so you will be knocked out through it all and totally escape the pain. Sedation will not affect the results. In fact, patients who opt for sedation get more courageous and request to have it done on other areas as well.

3) It is much cheaper here compared to the United States: P120,000 seems steep, but compare that to $4,000.

4) The doctor trained for Thermage in the Makati clinic is Dr. Joanna "Joey" Muñoz.

5) Results will not be noticed right away, but your skin will already feel tighter and smoother right after the treatment. Those treated detected dramatic tightening of the skin two months after the treatment. Those around them were making positive comments even earlier than that.

6) For those whose faces are severely sagging, the classic facelift may still be the only option for you. Thermage is perfect for those who do not want their face to change drastically which is unavoidable with the classic facelift.

Call the Belo hotline at 8442939 or e-mail info@belomed.com

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

JOURNEY OF FAITH
ART & HISTORY FROM THE VATICAN COLLECTIONS
Asian Civilisations Museum, 18 June - 9 October 2005

Crab with Crucifix
early 20th century, India
Museo Missionario Ethnologico,
Copyright Musei Vaticani

Discover the artistic past of Christianity through this rare exhibition of priceless religious artefacts and masterpieces then experience the Sacred Music Festival that celebrates the diversity of Christian music from all around the world with performances from over 100 local and international artists.

Sacred Music Festival Highlights

Mendelssohn's Elijah
30 September, 1 October

Roman Carnival
10 & 11 September

Other Events

Curator's Tour of the Exhibition
6 August

Italia Frescoes: A Modern Vision about Art & Faith Exhibition
13 September

Rome from Renaissance to Baroque by Sabrina Zuber, Art Consultant
29 September

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World's first anti-sagging cream

WHEN KANEBO ASKED European women in their 40s to name their primary skin concerns, about half of them expressed anxiety about sagging. Other frequent concerns included wrinkles, dark eye shadows and dryness.

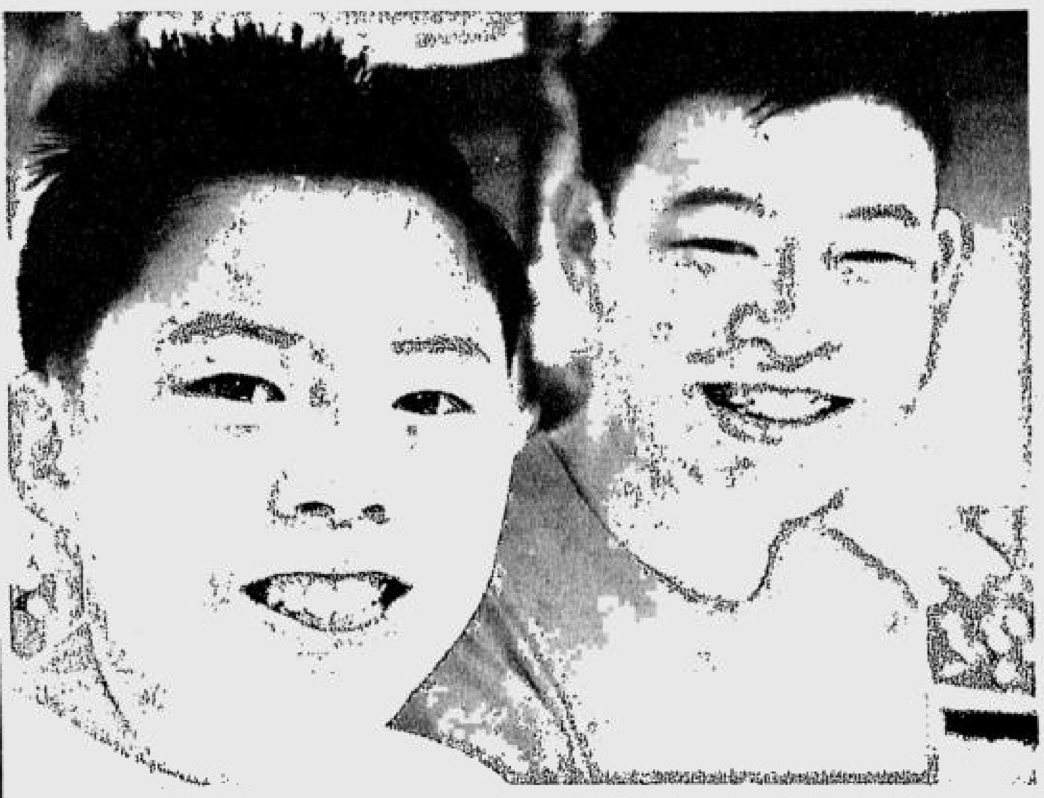
Most of the leading cosmetic companies sell lifting creams designed to cope with the problem. The lifting strategies they employ are complex and varied. One of the more common strategies is to lift sagging skin and improve its tone by exerting a tensing or firming effect. While this technique sounds feasible, its success has been modest at best.

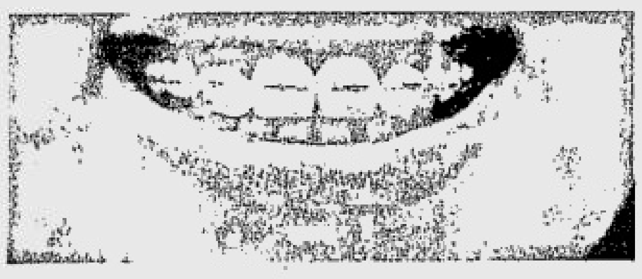
Now Kanebo has developed a product that reexamines the question of "lifting" from a truly novel approach to "anti-sagging." This concept, in combination with a unique collagen management system, works to renew the resilience of the skin by firming the muscles that control facial expression.

Through its long years of research on the mechanisms of ageing, Kanebo has developed dozens of advanced concepts for forefront anti-aging products. One of the most recent developments in anti-sagging care is Lifting Cream, a new release in the Sensai Cellular Performance line.

Lifting Cream is the world's first skincare product to rejuvenate not only collagen within the skin, but also the muscles that control the expressions of the face. The lifting effect is so remarkable that one can actually feel it working.

Kanebo products are available at Rustan's and other leading department stores.





CHILDREN should be brought to the orthodontist as early as 6 or 7 years old for early detection of dental problems.

Smile specialists mark silver anniversary

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE Orthodontists (APO) marks its 25th anniversary this month.

Though many Filipinos are still not familiar with the work of orthodontists, they are important partners of dentists in ensuring oral health.

Orthodontists help correct problems like crooked teeth or severe protrusion of the upper teeth that used to cause a lot of embarrassment, even affecting a person's self-confidence.

These dental health professionals install the braces that help correct teeth misalignment.

APO says children should have their first orthodontic checkup at 6 or 7 years, when the first permanent tooth appears. While any orthodontic problem can be treated at any age, early treatment will be less complicated.

Aside from improving a person's looks, orthodontic treatment makes it easier to brush the teeth properly and prevent tooth loss from gum disease.

Since orthodontic treatment is pricey, APO suggests that only the services of qualified professionals should be sought.

The APO website, www.apo.com.ph, lists its members, their credentials and years of expertise. A specialist in orthodontics is a dentist who took a two- to three-year postgraduate program in orthodontics. In the Philippines, so far only the University of the Philippines has a Graduate Program in Orthodontics accredited by the Philippine Board of Orthodontics (PBO), accrediting arm of the APO.

For more information on the APO and PBO, log on to www.apo.com.ph. APO is recognized by both the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) and the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO).

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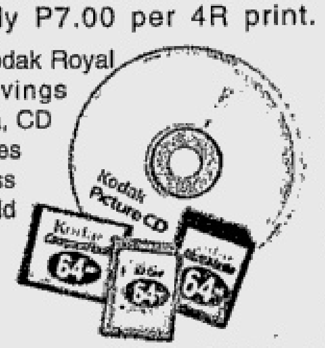

Promo period is from September 20 - October 17, 2005.

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Luscious lips, shining moments

AVON, THE COMPANY for women, achieves another beauty product breakthrough with the new Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color, an all-new lipstick collection that promises the juiciest shine upon application, followed by lusciously full lips in a color that just won't quit five to six hours after.

Avon Color Shine Supreme's secret ingredient? Blooming Shine Technology—a unique system that allows color to adhere to the lips and the high gloss layers to rise through the color and right to the surface for a high shine effect. So each time you press your lips together, the shine renews and re-intensifies. You get rich, full color and lasting shine that stays fresh from just one fabulous lip color.

This being a milestone in makeup, Avon marks Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color's debut starting Oct. 16 by honoring four Filipinas who are in full bloom themselves, basking in the glow of their personal achievements—their "shining moments," if you will.

Kitchie Nadal's shining moment came to her through text: her hit single, "'Wag Na 'Wag Mong Sasabihin," had reached double-platinum status, selling 60,000 CDs since its release. It also won for Kitchie the "Best Ballad" and "Best Female Artist" in this year's Awit Awards. "*Sobrang* touched *ako*," she says.

For Carlene Aguilar, life changed when the beauty product model and University of the Philippines Art Studies major snagged the biggest dream of her life: winning Bb. Pilipinas World over 23 other candidates. Come December, the former Miss Philippines Earth and second runner-up in the Hong Kong-based Miss Chinese International will strut her stuff again, this time with 120 women from all around the globe. "*Maraming mas maganda sa akin diyan*," acknowledges Carlene, "but it's what's inside you that truly makes you beautiful."

As a former professional tennis player, Dyan Castillejo has had her fair share of shining moments since picking up a racket at age 11 and representing the country in tournaments abroad. Today, as a sports anchor for ABS-CBN's The World Tonight, Dyan is at the forefront of Philippine sports, and her show Sports Unlimited, which she has co-hosted with Marc Nelson for nine years, is a personal victory in itself. "The milestones in my life have brought me to levels of joy I never thought was possible," says Dyan.

Pinky Webb broke into television broadcasting when senior anchors were all the rage, and this fresh face with a genuine curiosity for the law and current events proved she could deliver the goods. Pinky's news career has been peppered with shining moments, from the aborted impeachment of President Joseph Estrada to one-on-one interviews with formidable subjects like Sen. Miriam Santiago and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. "You feel a sense of power when you're informed," says this anchor for ABS-CBN, ANC and dzMM. "Plus, learning about the law as these situations happen is so fascinating, it's like you're studying while you report the news."

Like Kitchie, Carlene, Dyan and Pinky, your own shining moment can begin now with a simple coating in your favorite color of the new Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color.

The new Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color is available in six luscious shades—Peach Luster, Twig Glaze, Lustrous Berry, Raisin Varnish, Glossy Rose and Sparkling Wine.

Ask about it from Avon Ladies nationwide and Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview.

Activities for the Feast day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

"Jazz a vault away, Help build the Shrine" PROMO Pre-draw
Help build the Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and get a chance to win a Honda Jazz 2005 model in the Grand Draw.

PRIZES for October 1, 2005 Pre-draw:
1st Prize - 1 unit Samsung 53.34 centimeters (21 inch) Flat Screen TV
2nd Prize - 1 unit Panasonic Microwave Oven
3rd Prize - 1 unit Nokia 2600 cellular phone

Consolation Prizes:
10 units PROMAC DVD Players
10 units PROMAC Stand Fans
10 units Imarflex Oven Toasters

Grand Open House of the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.
Take a tour of the Shrine and the Columbarium which is now nearing 60% completion.

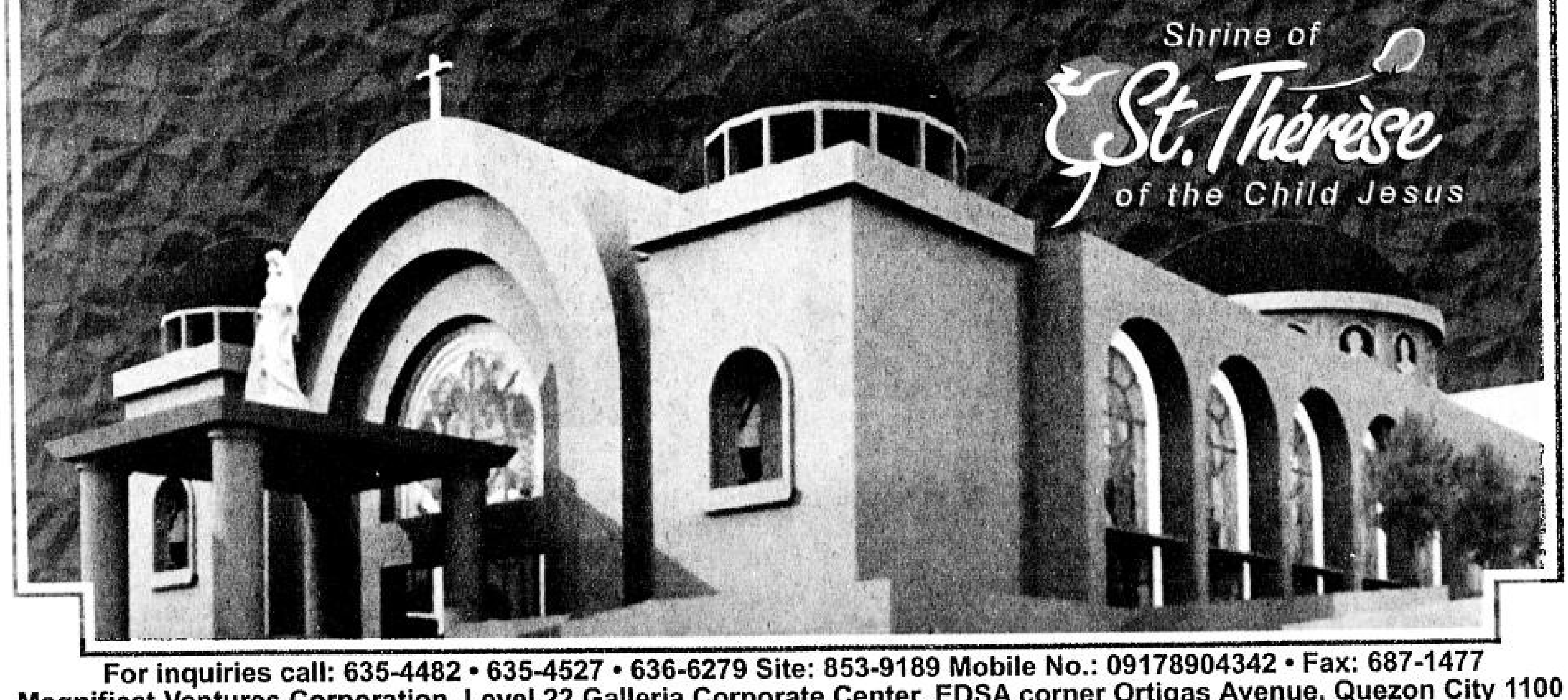
Grand Open House
October 1 & 2, 2005
8AM to 5PM

Judging of entries and announcement of winners for "The Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Ecclesiastical Art Competition".

Far Eastern University
St. Scholastica's College
Technological University of the Philippines
University of Santo Tomas
University of the East

Artwork entries which passed the Preliminary Screening Stages from the different participating schools will be judged and twenty winners will be announced. The twenty winners will also be commissioned to do murals for the Shrine's Ecclesiastical Museum.

Alfresco Vaults are now available for use.
The Alfresco Vaults (Garden Vaults) will be ready for use to accommodate transferees of Urns/Ashes or Bones of the dearly departed by November 2005.



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HOT-PINK jersey tube top with shrug, matched with an embroidered skirt with ruffle trim and exotic wooden bead necklace

GREEN V-neck jersey top over a long circle skirt adorned with painted faces and accented with gold sequined belt

HOT-PINK blouson sleeveless top embellished with embroidery, matched with white denim capri pants

Renegade, romantic, feminine

EMBRACE YOUR INNER spirit with the sophisticated yet laid-back appeal of Details Trading's neoclassic collection. The look is a retro mix of renegade and romantic, bringing eclectic sensibility to modern high-street fashion but with the subtle femininity that Details Trading is known for.

Feel the groove of the new collection in its crisp and occasionally playful combination of coordinates in tops, full-circle skirts, capris, shrugs and dresses, accented by touches of embroidery, beadwork and sequins.

Lacy knits and appliqués give the pieces a fairytale-like charm, while other flirty embellishments, like the multi-colored wooden-bead necklaces and chandelier earrings, make for a playful, irresistible look.

The palette comes in shades of green, tangerine, fuchsia and caramel. Select pieces in black-and-white lend a sophisticated air that are perfect for that late night *tête-a-tête*.

The Details Trading stores are at 2/F, Independent Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; G/F, Greenhills Theatre Mall; 2/F, City Walk 2, Eastwood City; SM City San Fernando, Pampanga; and Rustan's Shangri-La Mall and Alabang Town Center.

BLACK crochet shrug with sequins matched with a white tube top and an Eastern-inspired graphic black-and-white circle skirt

Scandinavian time

YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE THE NEXT design for an Axcent of Scandinavia watch will come from next. With its daring designers constantly seeking new inspirations, Axcent watches have transformed timepieces from mere instruments to keep the time, to trend-setting, funky accessories you can have without breaking the bank.

Axcent's first digital watch was Zero. As soon as it was released, this tribute to retro fashion hit the top of the list of best-selling watches, and the unisex collection has become popular in more than 50 countries all over the world.

With the trend in the catwalks leaning to browns, Rocker, another popular design from Axcent, now comes in three colors. Deep cappuccino and camel brown are made of the finest suede, while the red is in Italian leather.

Spider is a black-and-white classic, a fusion of spaceships from the '60s and spinning silk webs. Available with or without a chronograph, it will also be available in brown dial and brown strap.

Designer Daniel Jakobsson did not have to look far for inspiration for Sunny. He found it in the Scandinavian midnight sun. Glamorous and sporty at the same time, this watch has straps made of the finest Italian suede or leather, and all cases are stainless steel, except for one gold-plated model.

Electro takes it cue from the fast world of Formula 1 racing. The aerodynamic dials reflect the checkered flag and the speedometer. The design is retro in heavy stainless steel, yet still elegant and sophisticated.

The alarm watch Atomic is inspired by designer Daniel Jakobsson's friends' original '60s stove. Combined with the square-shaped case and Italian leather straps, Atomic is reminiscent of the early plastic digital watches of the '80s.

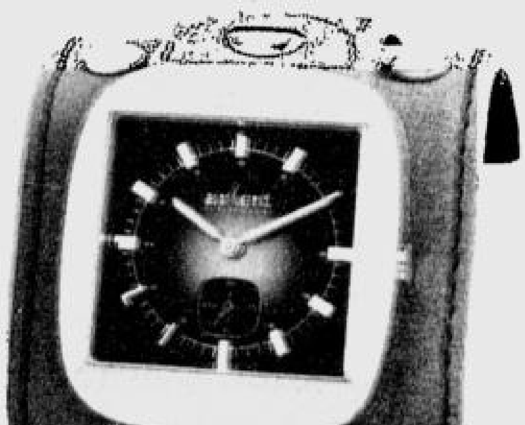
Another Jakobsson design is Snowflake, with Italian leather strings and an innovative way to adjust the length.

Designer Petra Nguyen's Broadband Sparkling Chic, meanwhile, sparkles with fine Swarovski Crystals on the case. Wear it with a glamorous party dress or to spice up a casual outfit. Each limited-edition watch comes with its own Bling Bling Box, with matching necklace and earrings.

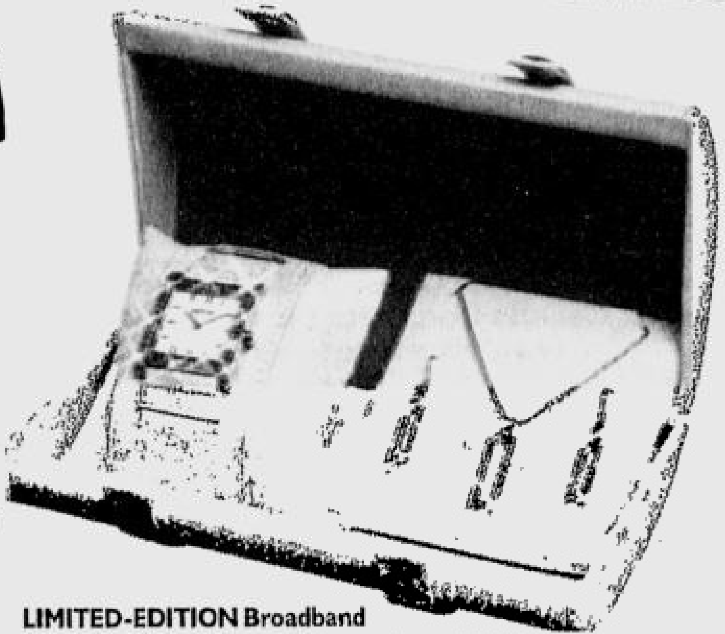
Axcent of Scandinavia is exclusively distributed by New Trends International and available only at Watch Republic shops at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; Market! Market!; Robinsons Pioneer; SM Fairview; SM Pampanga; SM Batangas; SM Southmall; Limketkai Mall CDO; and selected department stores in Rustans Alabang Town Center, Rustans Shangri-La, Robinsons Department Store Ermita and Galleria, and SM North Edsa.

E-mail mbmarketing@newtrends.com.ph

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: dazzling blockbuster Broadband; glamorous, sporty Sunny; trendy Atomic; and elegant Spider



ROCKER in camel brown, made from the finest suede



LIMITED-EDITION Broadband Sparkling Chic with matching earrings and necklace

Strap on the luxe look

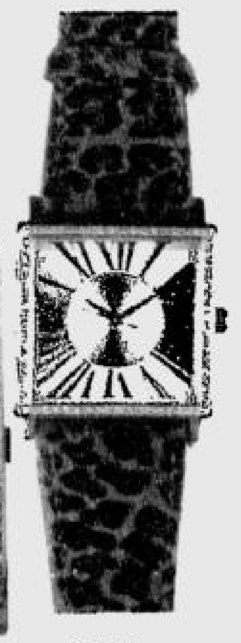
GUESS WATCHES ARE ALL ABOUT THE luxe look this season.

Sparkle with Swarovski crystal cases on classic neutral pink leather in Guess' Radiance collection. The timepiece makes a bold statement with fabulous fonts on a rose gold dial. Enclosed in a polished rose gold Swarovski crystal case, the watch's linear silhouette spells fashionable femininity.

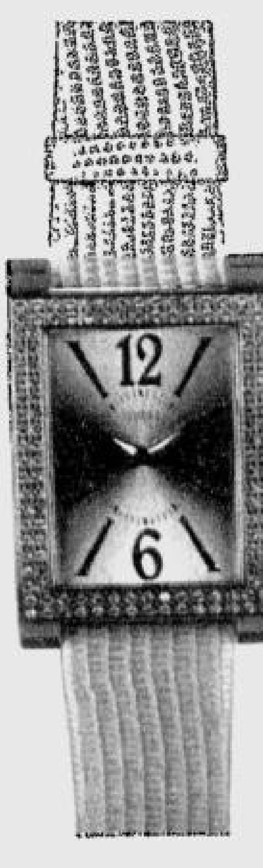
The Debutante Guess watch has silver, gold or enamel white dials with striking black roman numerals. In polished silver or gold steel cases, with or without Swarovski crystals, it is worn with a black croco-embossed leather strap; black, red, teal velvet or a polished silver and gold bracelet.

Guess' Gala watch, with its classic white dial and black roman numerals, is housed in a sleek silver steel case framed with Swarovski crystals and worn with an elegant black of pink croco-embossed leather strap. Another version has a champagne solid dial and shimmer strap. Gala also comes in a non-Swarovki silver steel case with a smooth black, red, camel or gold shimmer leather strap.

Introduced in 1983, Guess Watches are made to appeal to the young and fashion-driven. Guess for women is fashionable and chic, while Guess for men is inspired by technology, design and materials. Guess Watches are found in 30,000 retail locations in over 70 countries. The collection is available in Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America, the Middle East and North and South Africa.



GALA



RADIANCE

Luscious lips, shining moments

SPORTS enthusiast and former tennis champ Dyan Castillejo balances hosting a sports show, taking care of her family and being active in church.

NEWS ANCHOR Pinky Webb's career has been filled with shining moments such as her one-on-one interviews with Sen. Miriam Santiago and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

STATUESQUE beauty Carlene Aguilar snagged the Bb. Pilipinas-World 2005 title over 23 other candidates.

ROCK chanteuse Kitchie Nadal's platinum hit single "Wag na Wag Mong Sasabihin" earned her the Best Female Artist plum in this year's Awit Awards.

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Hair-free beauty, thanks to a Comet

AMANDA Griffin's really smooth armpits are a product of Facial Care Centre's latest innovation called Comet Hair Removal.

AMANDA GRIFFIN LOOKS EVERY INCH THE perfect model. With fair, peaches-and-cream skin, her body looks velvety smooth all over. Her secret? She has discovered Comet!

It's the reason for her being totally hair-free, stubble-free and hassle-free these days.

"Beautiful skin is important for me because of my job. I try to take care of my skin as much as possible," says Amanda.

Helping her achieve this is Comet Hair Removal, the latest innovation from Facial Care Centre.

"I was tired of shaving. My armpits would became irritated, while waxing was painful. It left my armpits stubbly. I wanted to get rid of the unsightly hair permanently," says Amanda.

It took only one treatment for Amanda to experience Comet's effectiveness. "I saw results right after the first treatment. I practically don't have hair left."

Now finished with her third session, the international VJ, TV show host and professional model says, "My skin is soft in the armpits. After my third treatment, I only have one or two hairs that grow back but no stubble anymore. I also recommend it to everyone I know that they should definitely go and get it. It made such a difference for me, not having to shave ever."

Facial Care Centre is the same company that brought the Laser Hair Removal technology to the Philippines in 1999. Its new Comet system is the most effective machine for treating all colors of skin and hair. From blondes to dark-skinned, this method of hair removal absolutely works with least discomfort.

AMANDA with Facial Care Centre's Dr. Isabelita Joya

Comet employs the powerful combination of electro-optical synergy and bi-polar radio frequency. The energies coming from laser and radio frequency produce epidermal and dermal heat at accurate controlled depths for maximum efficiency and safety for each patient.

Dr. Isabelita Joya, FCC in-house dermatologist, says "The technology of Comet Hair Removal yields fantastic results on very light blonde hair and dark skin types without having to increase the optical energy level. Since radio frequency does not hit melanin or the pigments in the skin that are responsible for our skin color, clients with any skin type—whether very fair or very dark—will find this treatment effective."

"Except for minimal temporary redness in treated areas that disappears in minutes after a session, there is no side effect that will hinder you from immediately resuming your daily activities right after the treatment," the doctor says.

As for the number of treatments required, this may depend on the area to be treated. But generally speaking, customers are on their way to being a hair-free and trouble-free beauty after six or more sessions.

Call 892-SKIN (7546).

Vibrant, stylish lips

PLAY UP YOUR LIPS WITH NU SKIN'S NU Colour Replenishing Lipstick's new shades that spell feminine verve. They not only make your lips look great, but also complement your personal style and individuality.

If you're the sophisticated woman who commands attention, go for Nu Colour's deep color red palette called Flushed. If you're the kind who loves sweet nothings and romance, go for the girly color of Tickled Pink. And if you're the simple type who goes for earthy, cool colors, Nu Colour's Iced Mocha is right for you. Lastly, if you're the outdoorsy, no-fuss type, enhance your lip color with the natural-looking lip shade of Honey Sun.

Nu Colour's Replenishing Lipstick line is a unique fusion of color cosmetics with healthy skincare. It not only colors and moisturizes, but also nourishes the lips.

Enriched with hydroxytyrosol—the key ingredient in Nu Skin's age-defying Celltrex Ultra—it provides powerful antioxidant and tissue-nurturing benefits for smooth, youthful-looking lips. With all the extra-beneficial lip care that Nu Colour Replenishing Lipstick offers, long-term usage will make your lips look and feel better through time. It also comes in a new, elegant white tube/packaging.

Nu Colour is the premium cosmetic line of Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc. The collection includes contemporary shades of eye shadows, blush-ons and other makeup essentials. These products are locally marketed and sold through person-to-person distribution by NSE's local affiliate, Nu Skin Philippines, Inc.

Call 6890333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph

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Road talk

PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR
Diesel Engines
IN GAS-CHALLENGED FUTURE

Detroit—Record-high prices at US pumps are giving hybrid cars a further image boost as the king of fuel economy, but many automakers are stepping up work on another major alternative to cut fuel consumption: diesel engines.

Long seen as a powerful but smog-forming drivetrain reserved for big trucks and buses, diesels are slowly gaining legitimacy in the world's biggest car market, where many Americans drive large sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks for personal use.

"Diesel is a no-brainer for pickup trucks—they're bullet proof, run forever and get great mileage," said Thad Malesh, principal of California-based research firm Automotive Technologies Research Group. "It will be a market requirement."

Homegrown brands like Ford Motor Co are especially keen on the technology, hoping to gain a competitive edge over Japan's Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co, which are behind in diesels but are winning market share in the United States with popular hybrid offerings.

To be sure, all automakers are developing and improving hybrid technology as well as other fuel-saving options like cars that run on ethanol. Ford this week unveiled plans for a tenfold jump in hybrid output by 2010.

But diesels are touted as a proven technology with high torque, towing power and durability, and as being more suited than others for hauling and long-distance driving.

"I think diesels could offer North America a very significant benefit in improving fuel efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Ford chief operating officer Jim Padilla said at the Reuters Autos Summit this week.

He said Ford was preparing to add more products to its diesel line-up, which includes versions of its popular F-series pickups.

Good performance, bad image

Diesels get 20 percent to 40 percent better fuel economy than gasoline vehicles and account for more than half of Europe's car market.

But they have failed to gain traction in markets like the United States and Japan, where diesels suffer from a poor image due to the higher emissions of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, or soot.

Still, with the United States' introduction of stricter sulfur-content and emissions standards by 2010, experts say diesels could be a sound ecological choice, given the low levels of carbon dioxide emissions linked to global warming.

Proponents also note that diesels cost less to produce than hybrids-about 1.15 times that of a conventional gasoline car versus 1.25 times for gasoline-electric hybrids, according to Tokyo-based Yano Research Institute. Hybrids require more parts, including a battery to capture lost energy while braking, and an electric motor that the battery feeds.

And while hybrids can theoretically get better mileage, they need stop-and-go driving for maximum efficiency, meaning someone used to cruising on highways is better off with a diesel.

"There's potential for diesel," said Jeff Schuster, auto analyst at JD Power. The consultancy expects diesel penetration on passenger vehicles to roughly double to 7 or 8 percent by 2010, compared with 3.5 percent for hybrids, up from 1.3 percent expected this year. *Reuters*

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Road talk

PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR
Diesel Engines
IN GAS-CHALLENGED FUTURE

Detroit—Record-high prices at US pumps are giving hybrid cars a further image boost as the king of fuel economy, but many automakers are stepping up work on another major alternative to cut fuel consumption: diesel engines.

Long seen as a powerful but smog-forming drivetrain reserved for big trucks and buses, diesels are slowly gaining legitimacy in the world's biggest car market, where many Americans drive large sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks for personal use.

"Diesel is a no-brainer for pickup trucks—they're bullet proof, run forever and get great mileage," said Thad Malesh, principal of California-based research firm Automotive Technologies Research Group. "It will be a market requirement."

Homegrown brands like Ford Motor Co are especially keen on the technology, hoping to gain a competitive edge over Japan's Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co, which are behind in diesels but are winning market share in the United States with popular hybrid offerings.

To be sure, all automakers are developing and improving hybrid technology as well as other fuel-saving options like cars that run on ethanol. Ford this week unveiled plans for a tenfold jump in hybrid output by 2010.

But diesels are touted as a proven technology with high torque, towing power and durability, and as being more suited than others for hauling and long-distance driving.

"I think diesels could offer North America a very significant benefit in improving fuel efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Ford chief operating officer Jim Padilla said at the Reuters Autos Summit this week.

He said Ford was preparing to add more products to its diesel line-up, which includes versions of its popular F-series pickups.

Good performance, bad image

Diesels get 20 percent to 40 percent better fuel economy than gasoline vehicles and account for more than half of Europe's car market.

But they have failed to gain traction in markets like the United States and Japan, where diesels suffer from a poor image due to the higher emissions of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, or soot.

Still, with the United States' introduction of stricter sulfur-content and emissions standards by 2010, experts say diesels could be a sound ecological choice, given the low levels of carbon dioxide emissions linked to global warming.

Proponents also note that diesels cost less to produce than hybrids-about 1.15 times that of a conventional gasoline car versus 1.25 times for gasoline-electric hybrids, according to Tokyo-based Yano Research Institute. Hybrids require more parts, including a battery to capture lost energy while braking, and an electric motor that the battery feeds.

And while hybrids can theoretically get better mileage, they need stop-and-go driving for maximum efficiency, meaning someone used to cruising on highways is better off with a diesel.

"There's potential for diesel," said Jeff Schuster, auto analyst at JD Power. The consultancy expects diesel penetration on passenger vehicles to roughly double to 7 or 8 percent by 2010, compared with 3.5 percent for hybrids, up from 1.3 percent expected this year. *Reuters*

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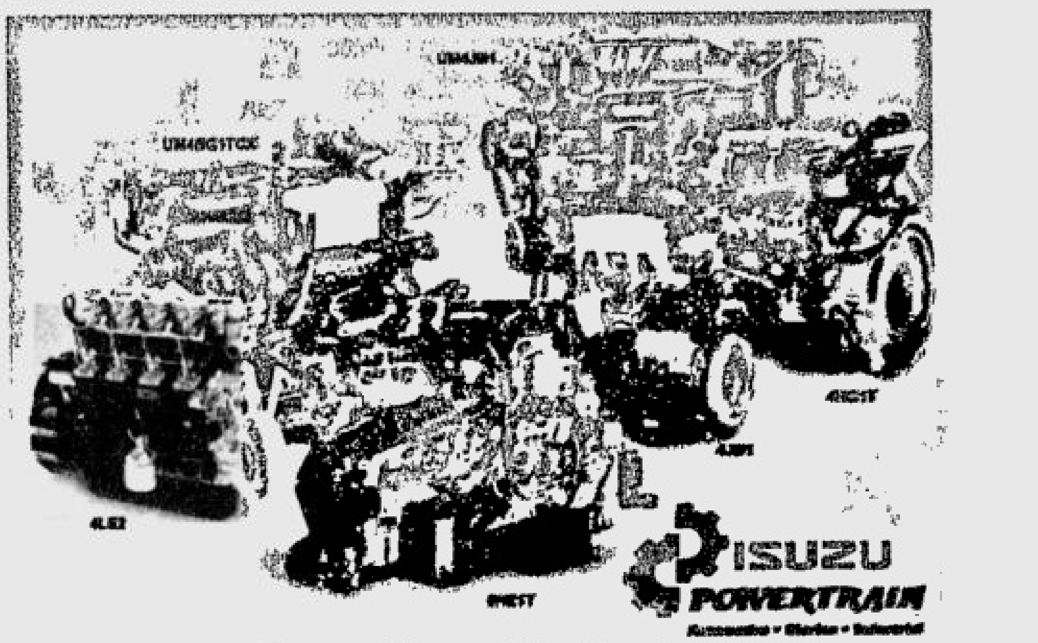

Save fuel with Isuzu diesel vehicles

WITH OIL PRICES NOW CONTINUOUSLY increasing in the global market, Filipino motorists are desperate to find ways and means to save on fuel expenses. So dire is the current oil price crisis that the government has been actively drafting policies and programs to stop the unabated, wasteful use of precious fuel. Talks about fuel rationing persist, and the local motorsports community has also been alarmed by news that government is considering putting a ban on auto racing like it did in the '70s.

As private vehicle owners, motorists do their share by carefully planning travel routes, joining carpools, setting air-conditioning at a minimum or even walking to nearby destinations. But the real key to saving fuel is to own and drive a fuel-efficient vehicle in the first place.

But which vehicles are actually fuel-efficient? With virtually all car companies now proclaiming their vehicles models to deliver impressive mileage figures, the average consumer can be quite confused and misled. But come to think of it: Long before other carmakers have thought of hyping on fuel efficiency, one auto company had single-handedly done so in the last eight years. Isuzu Philippines Corp - with its firm hold on groundbreaking diesel-engine technology- has been stressing the importance of fuel efficiency by educating the public on the advantages of its diesel engines and running fuel economy contests among its customers.

It is Isuzu that has been pointing out that diesel engines are steadily gaining popular acceptance around the globe, especially in Europe where one of two vehicles sold is diesel-powered. Even the gasoline-dominated car market of the United States is slowly opening its doors to diesel. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency has even created its National Clean Diesel Campaign, which aims to promote cleaner diesel engines with the implementation of various control strategies. The campaign is now requiring clean ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for use in highway diesel engines starting in 2006.

When it comes to fuel-efficient diesel engines, nothing beats Isuzu's fleet of vehicles: the Alterra SUV, the D-Max pickup, the Crosswind AUV and the N-Series and F-Series trucks. Powered by Isuzu's frugal and environment-friendly diesel engines, these versatile workhorses are simply the most economical vehicles to operate in their respective classes. To point this out, Isuzu launched a full-blast campaign this year to promote its economical diesel engines to consumers. Isuzu's ongoing SEE (Safety, Economy, Environment-friendliness) technology campaign aims to show the responsible side of Isuzu, most notably its reputation for assembling economical-or fuel-efficient-diesel power plants.

In a supervised economy run sponsored by the Department of Energy in February 2004, both the Crosswind AUV and the D-Max pickup easily bested their rivals in fuel-efficiency. During the 170-km run from Lipa, Batangas, to Pasay City, a manual 2.5-liter direct-injection diesel Crosswind submitted an impressive mileage of 19.58 km to a liter, while a manual 3.0-liter turbodiesel D-Max achieved 16.65 km to a liter. This was an officially monitored test where all participating vehicles ran under the same road, weather and driving conditions. The exercise aimed to stress the importance of fuel-efficiency to the public especially in these trying times.

In the end, officials from the Department of Energy were themselves convinced that Isuzu vehicles are simply the most fuel-efficient in the market today. With the kind of mileage Isuzu vehicles are capable of achieving, stupendous gas prices wouldn't sting as much as they would with other gas-guzzling models.

There is little wonder why Isuzu vehicles performed superbly in the above-mentioned fuel-economy run. The Japanese vehicle assembler is widely recognized as the world authority on diesel technology, pouring all its research-and-development resources into its unceasing drive to perfect the diesel engine. Indeed, Isuzu is the only vehicle maker in the world that has an all-diesel vehicle lineup.

In the Philippines, even the undisputed market leader has recently released a new collection of vehicles powered by diesel engines. It is perhaps the most obvious admission that Isuzu has been on the right track in producing and marketing diesel-only vehicles.

Still, the technological upper hand belongs to the pioneer in the field, and Isuzu is willing to prove this once more by offering its vehicles for actual test drives.

Further proof of Isuzu's expertise in diesel engine technology is the recent launch of its Powertrain group in the country. The new Powertrain arm will make available diesel engines for industrial, marine and automotive applications. The first of its kind in the Philippines, Isuzu's new business is expected to fulfill the country's need for new, powerful, affordable and environment-friendly engines to propel yachts, fishing boats, public-utility jeepneys, buses and light trucks. Clearly, when it comes to powerful, durable, reliable and fuel-efficient diesel engines, Isuzu is the first and only name that comes to mind.

Even in these difficult times, Isuzu continues to be the motoring public's "responsible partner." Isuzu's diesel vehicles are by far the best in the industry when it comes to fuel-efficient modes of transport. Head to the nearest Isuzu dealership now and test-drive these fuel-saving vehicles.

More than 1M Mercedes Roadsters sold since 1954

MERCEDES-BENZ HAS DELIVERED more than 1 million roadsters to customers since the legendary 'Gullwing' celebrated its premiere 51 years ago. That makes Mercedes the world's leading supplier of premium-class sports cars. With the introduction of the SL in 1954, Mercedes-Benz laid the foundation for a successful family of models that is now in its fifth generation and still represents some of the world's most popular dream machines. More than 600,000 SL sports cars have been sold to date. The current version of the SL-Class has been thrilling drivers around the world since 2001. With total sales of over 100,000 units and a market share of over 40 percent, this model is at the top of its segment worldwide. A similar success has been posted by the SLK-Class, which made its debut in 1996. The latest model of this compact Mercedes roadster is the world's number one car in its class. The open-top two-seater with the innovative Vario roof has a market share of approximately 43 percent in western Europe, while about half of the premium compact roadsters in Germany bear the SLK nameplate. All in all, Mercedes-Benz has delivered about 400,000 SLK roadsters to customers since 1996. Mercedes-Benz has 9 models in its roadster line-up: SLK 200 Kompressor; SLK 280; SLK 350; SLK 55 AMG; SL 350; SL 500; SL 600; SL 55 AMG; and the SL 65 AMG.

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GET MORE MILEAGE FROM your gasoline money with Shell Citibank MasterCard's "Oh My Gas, 4 percent Rebate?!" promotion ongoing until Oct. 31.

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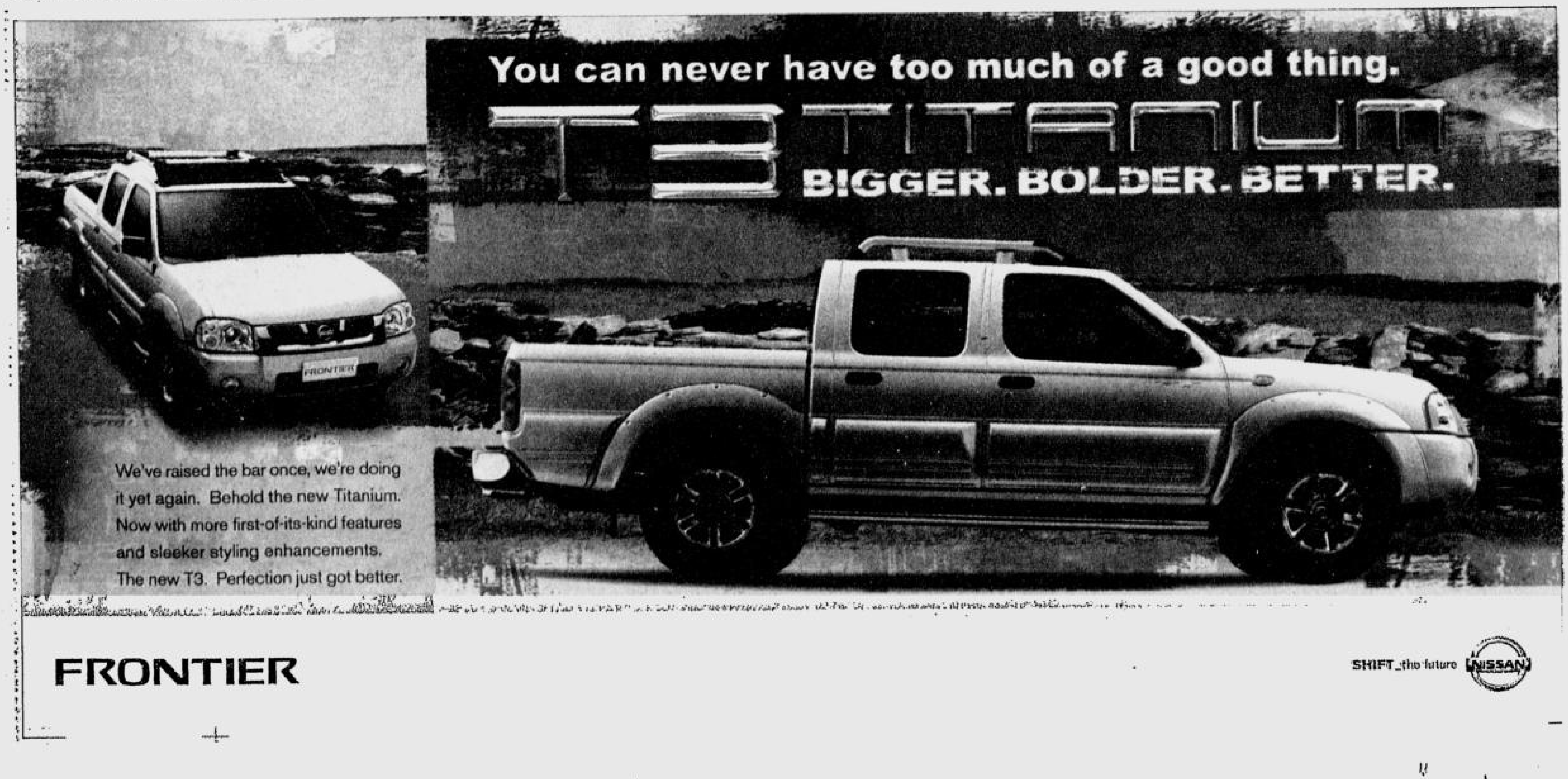
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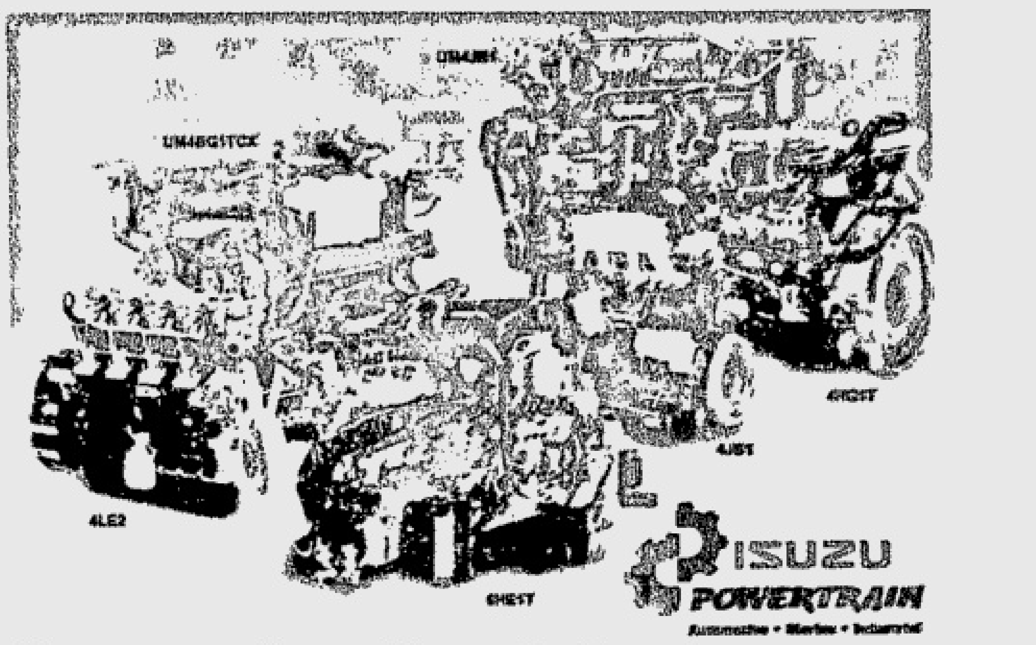

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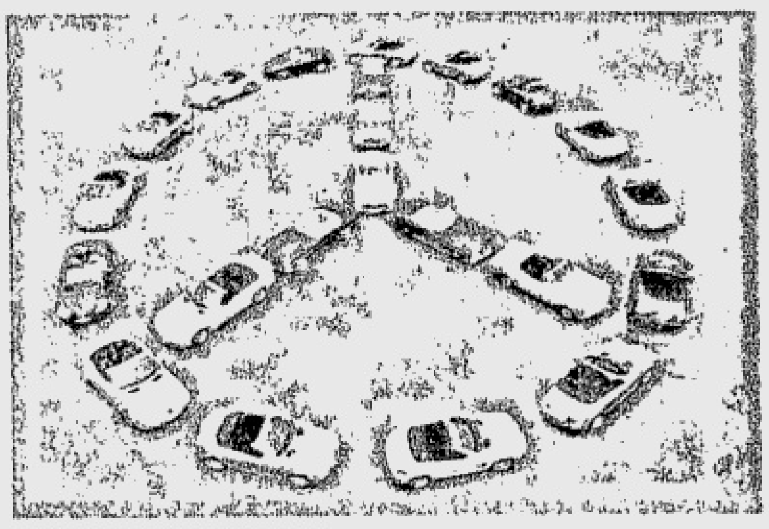

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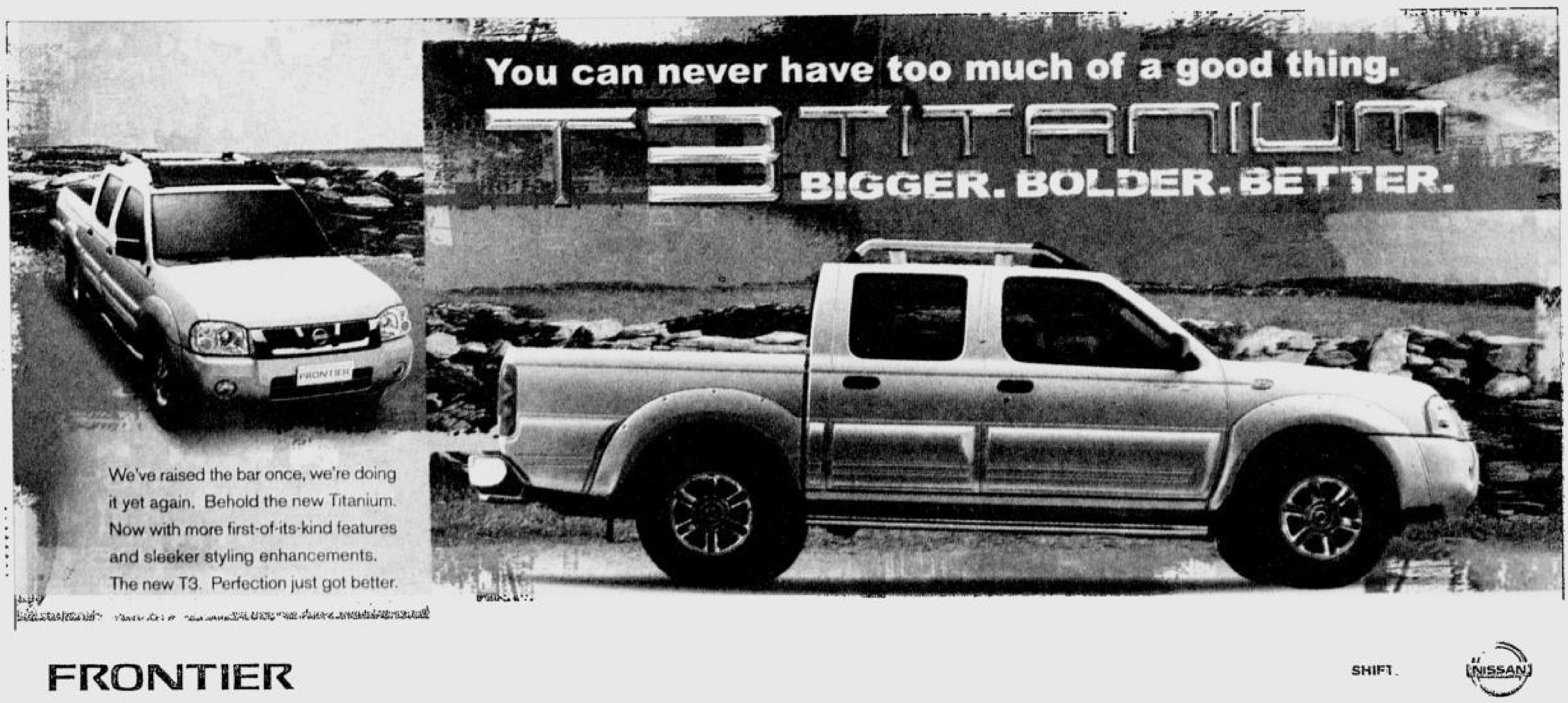

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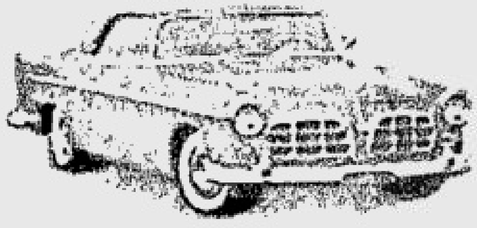
Chrysler 300 celebrates 50 at 2005 Goodwood Revival

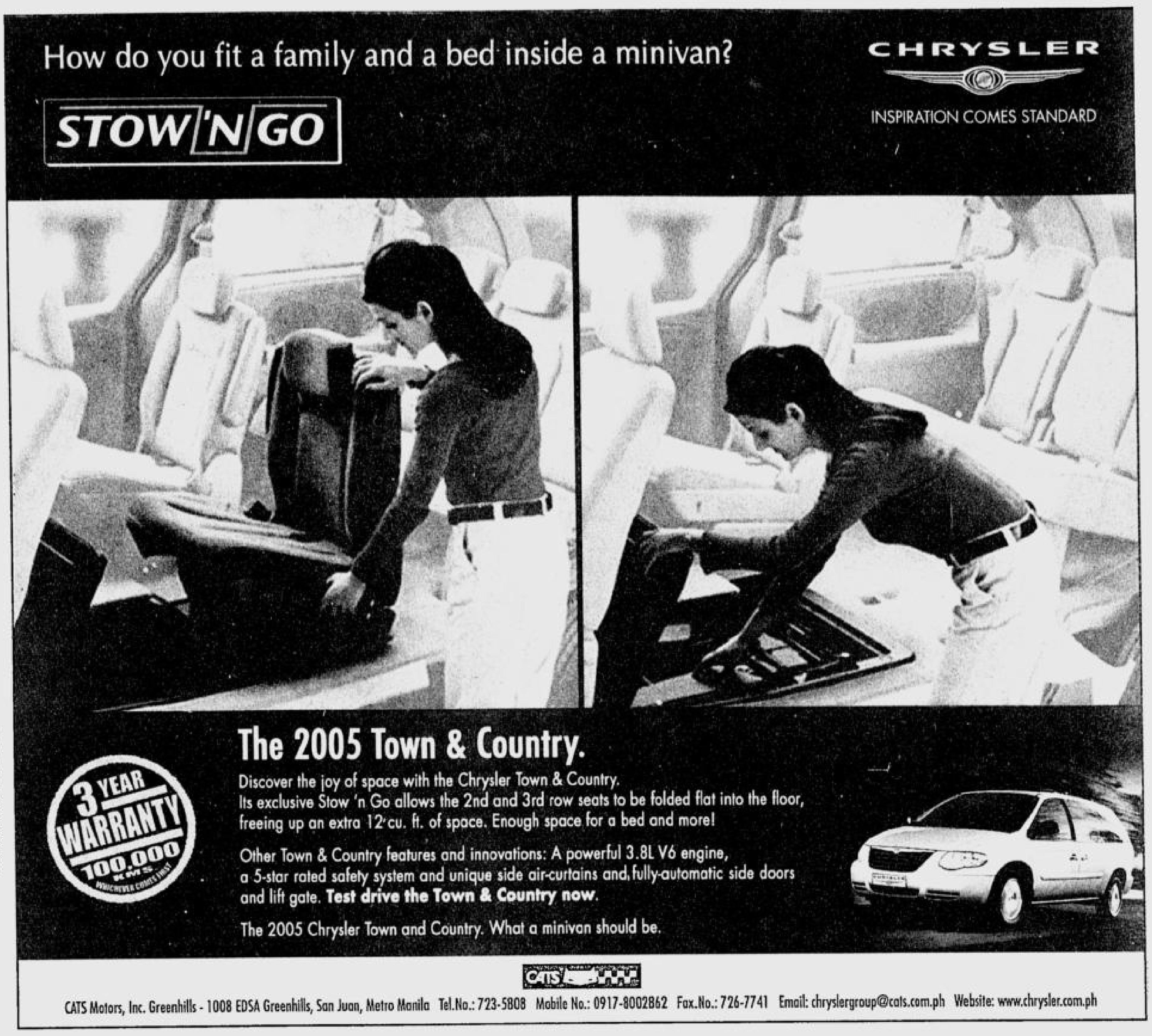
THE CHRYSLER 300C, THE motor Trend Car of the Year 2005, is celebrating half a century of classic American design and power at the eighth annual Goodwood Revival, a premier auto racing weekend held in the United Kingdom and the world's only sporting event conducted entirely in a period theme.

"The original 1955 300 was the fastest four-seater production car in the world and the ultimate expression of performance combined with glamour. It provided all the performance of the very best sports cars while offering the luxury of a plush sedan. The car set new standards in the marketplace and at a stroke, created the American 'muscle car' phenomenon," said Joe Eberhardt, executive vice president-global sales, marketing and service, Chrysler Group. "Today's Chrysler 300C embodies many of the attributes of the original 300 letter series and interprets the spirit in a thoroughly modern way-celebrating its 50th anniversary at this exquisite event is a fitting tribute to the marque."

During its first year of production, the Chrysler 300 swept the Flying Mile Class at the 1955 Daytona Speed Week competition with the winner averaging 127.58 mph. The Chrysler 300 became the first mass-produced American car with a 300-hp engine, the legendary Hemi V-8, and combined power with stylish de-

CHRYSLER/14





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The 2005 Town & Country.

Discover the joy of space with the Chrysler Town & Country.
Its exclusive Stow 'n Go allows the 2nd and 3rd row seats to be folded flat into the floor, freeing up an extra 12 cu. ft. of space. Enough space for a bed and more!

Other Town & Country features and innovations: A powerful 3.8L V6 engine, a 5-star rated safety system and unique side air-curtains and fully-automatic side doors and lift gate. **Test drive the Town & Country now.**

The 2005 Chrysler Town and Country. What a minivan should be.

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Full fold-flat rear seats give you extra cargo space.

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- 4x4 performance with sedan-like fuel efficiency with the Electronic 4WD.
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HYUNDAI
Drive your way

'4x4 of the year' accolade to Range Rover Sport

Land Rover has won three awards from influential specialist title 4x4 Magazine in its "4x4 of the Year 2006" competition, with the Range Rover Sport beating 42 other 4x4s to the top accolade.

The Range Rover Sport Supercharged won the luxury category and crowned 4x4 Magazine's 4x4 of the Year 2006. Land Rover's latest addition to the range convinced the judges with its unique breadth of capability, dynamic exterior looks, luxurious interior package and pioneering technologies such as the patented Terrain Response system.

Commenting on the Range Rover Sport, 4x4 Magazine's judges said: "There could only be one winner, because there was only one car that filled our enthusiast senses with its unbelievable blend of charismatic off-road ability and breathtaking on-road performance; a superb technically advanced machine, packing enough practicality to serve as a genuine family sports-tourer, but one that the true high-performance driving enthusiast will enjoy beyond measure."

The Extreme category was won by the Defender 90 County XS that defeated the Jeep Wrangler, Ricardo Ibex and Santana PS10, thanks to standard equipment such as the coveted TD5 engine with two-speed transfer box and permanent four-wheel drive through a lockable centre differential.

Land Rover UK managing director Phil Popham added, "This is another prestigious title for the Range Rover Sport and a well-deserved victory for the Defender, which proves it is still a peerless off-road icon. We know only too well the rigors our products are put through by the judges at 4x4 Magazine, so to come away with three awards is truly a remarkable achievement."

For information about Land Rover and its line of diesel variants, call 897-8888 or visit the Land Rover Philippines showroom at Enzo Building, 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or at Jaguar's Ortigas Center showroom along ADB Avenue, Pasig City.

BMW 1 Series Sport Edition reserved for only 10 owners

BMW PHILIPPINES HAS introduced a limited edition of its trendy 1 Series model: the new BMW 1 Series Sport Edition.

Enjoyment of the new 1 Series Sport Edition will be reserved for a few individuals, as only 10 units will be made available to customers. And to signify the exclusivity of this offer, each vehicle will come with a numbered certificate and serial number stylishly displayed on the car's dashboard.

Based on the 116i Executive model, the 1 Series Sport Edition features a BMW Aerodynamic Kit and specially designed star-spoke alloy wheels that enhance the dynamic character of the vehicle, and more importantly, provide excellent driving and handling performance.

For digital entertainment on the road, the BMW 1 Series Sport Edition is equipped with an iPOD Mini that can be plugged directly into the car's audio input jack located in the center console. This enables owners to enjoy high fidelity MP3 music played through the BMW's advanced sound system. The modern interior of the 1 Series Sport Edition likewise features leather seats and a sports leather steering wheel, illuminated door sills, and aluminum pedals.

The exclusive BMW 1 Series Sports Edition is available at authorized BMW dealers, namely Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

Chrysler 300 celebrates 50 at 2005 Goodwood Revival

From page 13

sign by Virgil Exner and superb handling. For each of the next 10 years, Chrysler introduced a new 300 model identified by a letter. As part of its celebration at the Goodwood Revival, the Chrysler Group will put all 11 of its "Letter Cars" of the 300 series on display. It will mark the first time that the entire collection of classic cars has ever been assembled in one place.

Regarded as much for their iconic style as their performance, these cars will be contextualized by glamorous models wearing the Haute Couture fashion from each year. Whether it's a design by Chanel or Balenciaga, the classical outfit from each year will be modeled by a glamorous "Letter" girl associated with the relevant car. The cars and fashions will be on display throughout the weekend and will take to the track once each day for a parade.

"In 1955, the Chrysler 300 stunned the entire racing world by winning both the Nascar and AAA stock car racing series. Sponsoring the Goodwood Revival presented a unique opportunity to showcase the Chrysler 300's 50 years of classic American design and performance in an appropriate setting," said Jeff Bell, vice president-Chrysler and Jeep, Chrysler Group. "Goodwood presented the perfect venue to mark this golden anniversary and display the entire 'Letter Car' series in one place for the very first time."

Held in the English countryside west of London, the 8th Goodwood Revival presents a series of auto races featuring classic automobiles driven by some of Europe's leading professional drivers from Sep. 16 to 18.

The letter car series was discontinued after the 1965 300L. It resumed for model year 1999, and later, in 2005, the 300 returned to rear wheel drive (RWD) Chryslers and continued use of a new 5.7L Hemi V-8. To commemorate the return to RWD with a Hemi V-8 this edition of the series was named the 300C, after the groundbreaking 1957 car. The Chrysler 300 was named Motor Trend Car of the Year in 2005.

The 300C today

The Chrysler 300C is one of the most distinctive vehicles of its category. Its all-round, stress-free performance and unique Chrysler design gives customers the confidence they need to express their independence and unique personalities. It showcases Chrysler's passion for automobile design and commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

The first European-built Chrysler 300C rolled off the assembly line at the Magna Steyr plant in Graz, Austria, June 15, 2005. The 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 engine is built in the Saltillo Engine Plant in Saltillo, Mexico. The 2.7-liter V-6 and 3.5-liter high-output V-6 engines are built in the Kenosha Engine Plant in Kenosha, Wis. The four-speed and five-speed transmissions are built at the Indiana Transmission Plants I and II, in Kokomo, Ind, respectively.

A new 3.0-liter V-6 common rail diesel engine, based on the latest Mercedes-Benz technology, is now available in Chrysler 300C in markets outside North America, providing class-leading torque and pulling power. The engine produces power of 160 kW (218 hp DIN) and torque of 510 Nm (376 lb.-ft.).

HONDA

* Also available in 1.3L i-DSI engine variants.

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HYUNDAI
Drive your way

HYUNDAI TUCSON CAPTURES HEARTS OF MOMS ACROSS THE U.S.

Fountain Valley, California - The Hyundai Tucson SUV earned honors from Mother Proof (www.motherproof.com) as the Best Overall Value in its annual awards honoring vehicles best suited for busy moms. Tucson features noted for their appeal to mothers included: seating for five, plenty of rear-seat leg room (rear-facing infant seats fit easily), smooth car-like ride and trimming details that make the car seem more expensive than it is. Packed with an impressive 2.0 liter CRDi engine, Tucson can deliver a maximum of 112ps at 4,000rpm of power and 25kgm at 1,800-2,500rpm of torque.

The Tucson was also recently named winner of AutoPacific's 2005 Vehicle Satisfaction Awards in the Compact SUV category and "Best New Crossover" in the 2005 Canadian Car of the Year Awards. It has also earned distinction from J.D. Power and Associates as the highest rated all-new vehicle in the 2005 Initial Quality Study.

Mother Proof is a company dedicated to providing women in general, and mothers in particular, with useful and entertaining new car reviews. Mother Proof's innovative reviews are straightforward and casual, written from one woman to another. The cutting edge reviews are published by ABCNews.com, as well as numerous daily papers and regional parenting magazines in the U.S. and Canada.

The Hyundai Tucson CRDi is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI).

Shopping Spree

E-mail: sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Aries Espinosa**

What makes toys of today click?

BRATZ attack. Toys are becoming more music-based as evidenced by these dolls that sing and play music instruments.

By Raquel P. Gomez

FROM A to Zoid. Toys are becoming more interactive.

Toys in current circulation are an indication of how pop culture and the technology-immersed and driven environment play a big role in shaping them

THIS TIME OF THE YEAR IS A BIT EARLY TO gather all the children's Christmas wishes. But if we were to take a peek into Santa's cherished list, some noteworthy trends in toys would surface indicating that, indeed, the times have progressed even for the small world of the children.

Marvie Samala of Ban Kee Trading Inc, a major toy distributor in the country, says the toys in current circulation are an indication of how popular culture and the present technology-immersed and driven environment play a big role in shaping them.

A great majority of toys today is an offshoot of popular shows from television and the movies. Music via MTV or MYX channels is gaining headway into the formation of toys as well. "Toys based from popular cartoon series shown on the Cartoon Network, Disney Channel, and Nickelodeon are sure hits for children. So we have the familiar Zoids, Gundam, Justice League characters such as Superman and Batman, the Power Rangers, Sponge Bob, Disney Princess, Lilo and Stitch, Dora the Explorer, Winnie the Pooh and many more," says Samala.

Samala says when the company began distributing Bratz dolls in 2002, the dolls became an instant success because the main characters Cloe, Yasmin, and Jade had a flair

TOYS/J2

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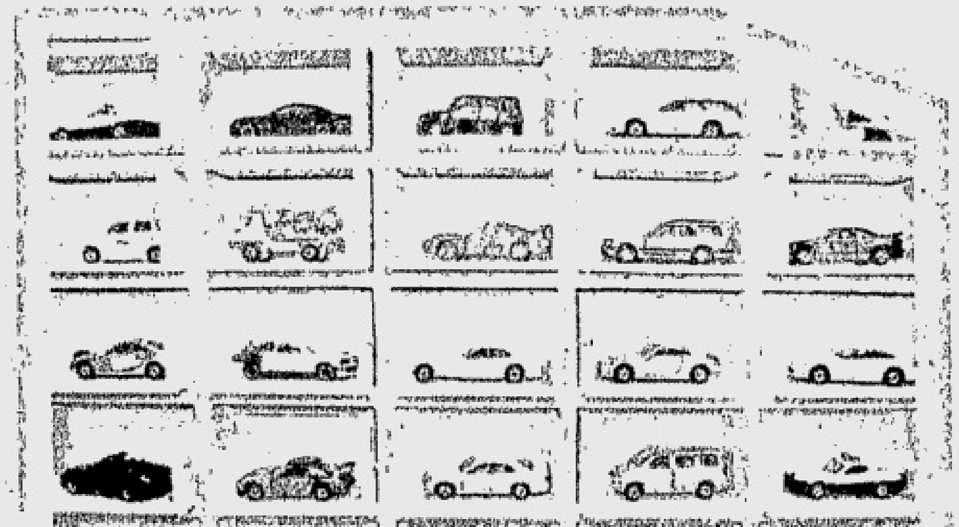
What makes toys of today click?

From page J1



CARS are here to stay. The trend is more toys are still made for boys.

for fashion and music. These chic dolls with colorful hair and the hippest attire come with a set of makeup, guitars, drums and a music CD.

"Children as young as eight years old are already into music and they're the MTV generation. So the toys are becoming more music-based."

Toys with character

Samala says children are spending more time in front of the TV. Oftentimes the constant exposure to certain characters makes the children associate themselves with these characters; and what they usually see on TV, they would want to possess.

"Children usually buy toys with characters they strongly associate with. If Sponge Bob is the child's favorite character, he'd buy every toy that has a 'Sponge Bob' in it."

The one thing that seems constant in the evolution of toys is that there are still more toys made and catered to the boys' market. "Let's face it. Who's got more collection of robots, action figures, or cars whether the miniature die-cast models or the remote, it's still the boys."

But Samala says the toys meant for boys are now also being played by girls. A few years back, when the company introduced Bey Blade, a plastic glittering top whose manner of playing is based on the hit animé show, it became a success not only to the boys' market but to the girls' as well. Children in every street were competing against each other with the Bey Blade game.

Animé characters or Japanese animation with characters having big wide eyes and spiked hair is also a phenomenal success among children. Samala says when Ban Kee introduced the oddball Dragonball Z toys and cute pocket monster Pokemon toys in the 1990s, the floodgates for animé characters opened wide and the toy market was flooded by anything animé.

"Animé characters have certain appeal and magnet to children, even to young children below 10 years old. Pre teens and the teenagers are hooked on them. Even young adults and adults are hooked on them, particularly those who collect animé characters."

Animé appeal

Samala says the appeal of animé lies in the depth and intricacy of the characters compared with American cartoon characters that come in the usual clean cut and groomed form. The animé characters make the children think and compete in a healthy environment. For example, when Pokemon trading cards hit the market, not only children played the cards, but the grownups as well. "Animé toys and games that go with it challenge a child; they make the child hone his mathematical and analytical skills."

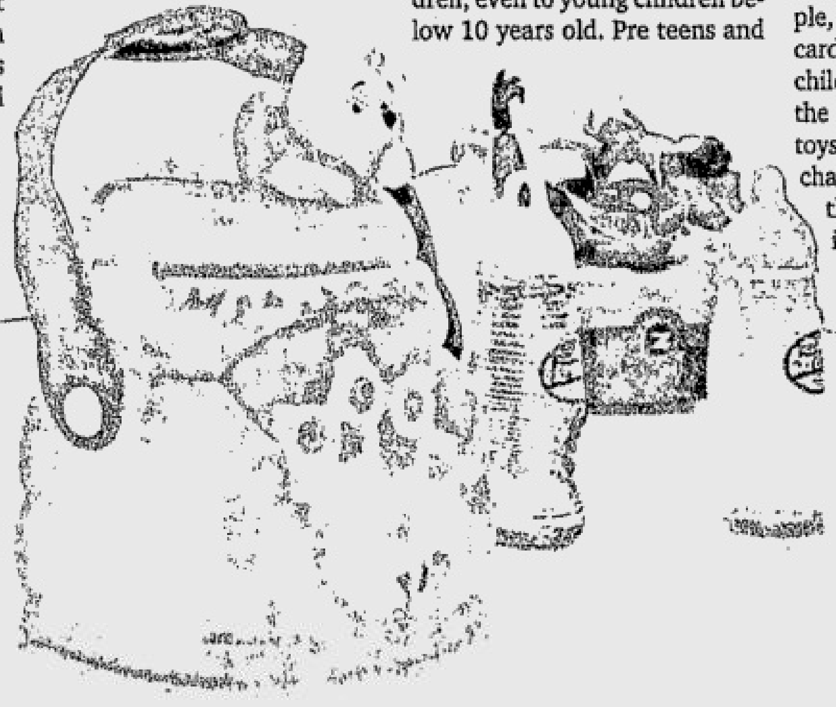
So toys today make children not only play and while away their time but think as well. And this is just what "Plug n Play" toys or the so called TV games do. So called TV games because you just attach the colorful apparatus on the TV and you can play a game with Sponge Bob characters, operating it is simple and the toy has pre-programmed games installed. "Toys are becoming more interactive. It's fun to play the toy, but at the same time it educates the kid," says Samala.

Talk of toys being more complicated, Zoids come in a box unassembled, and the assembling of the small parts to make into a Zoid is one giant task for a child.

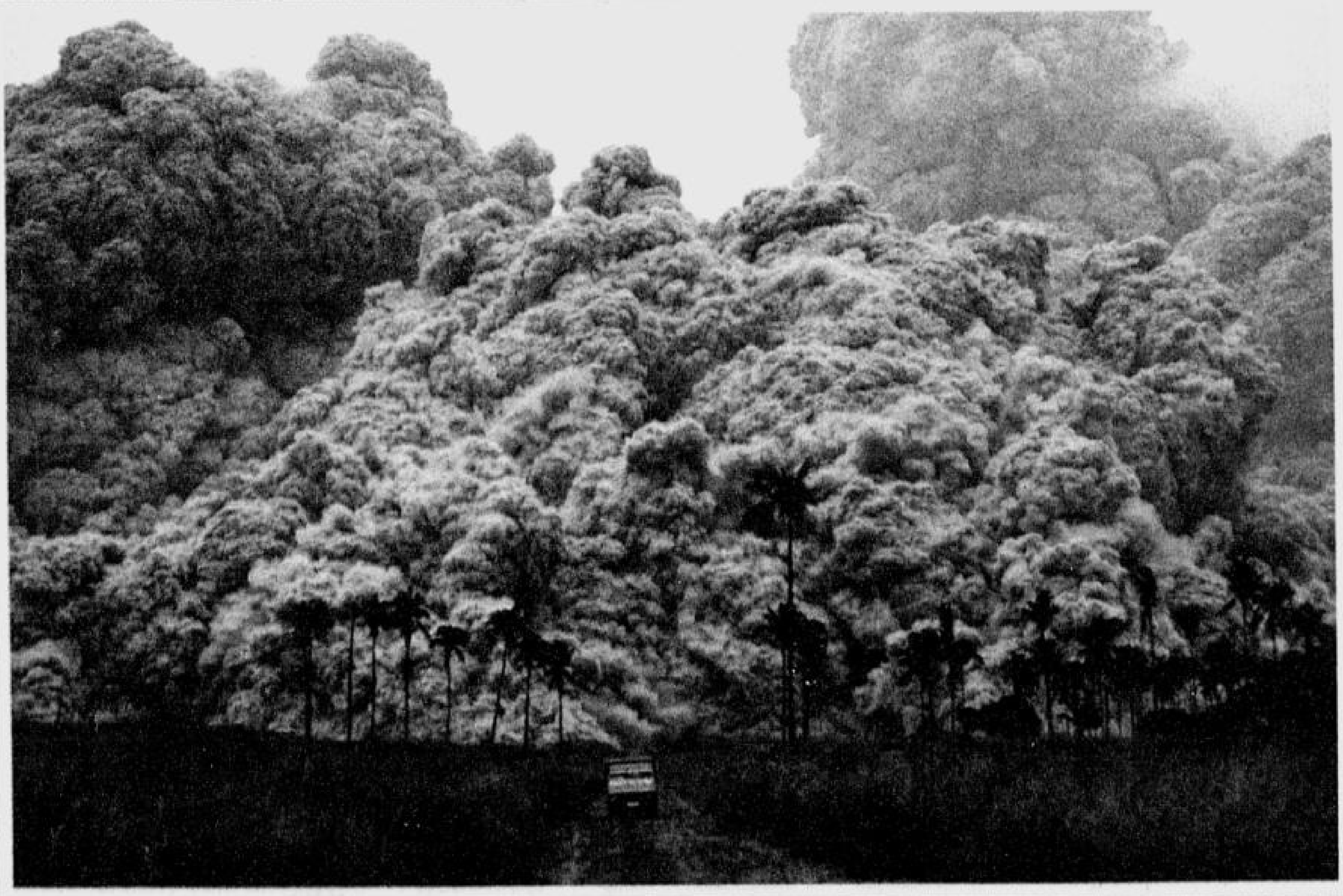
"These toys really encourage a child to think. But most of the time, the assembling of the toy is the perfect time for a father and a child to bond. The father helps the child in assembling the toy. There's always a sense of accomplishment on the part of the child when he's able to assemble the toy."

Bankee, which started distributing toys in 1984, has seen a number of toys that came and went and made a difference in a child's life. Up its sleeves and eventually making a grand entrance are new animé toy characters called the Grandzasers and B Daman, a robot that launches marbles. Samala says when it comes to toys, children are still children, their imagination and make-believe world is often fired by new and exciting toys, an improvement over the last toys they had.

CHILDREN buy toys with characters they usually associate with.



Nature's wrath becomes one man's feat.
One man's feat is a community's hope.



Photojournalist Albert Garcia's award-winning image of the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption will be sold to collectors for the first time to benefit Hands On Manila.

The only lensman to capture in film the volcano's first eruption in over four centuries, the photo won for Garcia the **1991 World Press Photo Contest (Nature and Environment category)**—the first and, so far, only Filipino to do so.

Garcia's Pinatubo photo also has the distinct honor of being included in **Time magazine's** commemorative book, **"Great Images of the 20th Century,"** and **National Geographic's "100 Best Pictures 1888-2000."**

As a symbol of gratitude for the various accolades, Garcia is donating 30 percent of the sales to Hands On Manila's charity projects.

Reproductions of the prized photo will come in 12" x 18" Fuji YKL photo paper (loose print), to be sold at P5,000 each.

A sample will be on display at the "PDI Foto Expo: Digital Weekend" on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

For orders, please contact Nancy Vecina at 0917-8423148, 8096190 and nanzvecina@gmail.com.

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The Bratz craze catches up with kid model Alecx Garcia

ALECX started her Bratz collection three years ago.

By Marlet D. Salazar
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

NO OTHER TOY CAN TICKLE A LITTLE girl's fancy more than a doll. Any type of doll, skinny or plump, is a staple of a kid's life. The thing with dolls is that most of them are designed to be dressed up. And don't girls love to dress up?

Frances Alexandra P. Garcia has seen and played with various kinds of dolls. And like most little girls growing up, her taste with what dolls to play with and collect grows up with her, too.

Alecx, who is the youngest and the only girl in a brood of three, has lost track of the Bratz dolls she collected in three years. At present, these cool and hip-looking dolls are her favorites.

Bratz dolls became popular with most of the kids today because they characterize the life experiences of pre-teeners in school and at home. Fashion is another thing. With a more realistic body design, these dolls are fun to dress up. Their fashion sense is almost similar to what is in vogue today.

Alecx at 10 years old can somehow relate to the pre-teen life of the Bratz gals. She first saw the Bratz dolls in a store one day the family went out. And that started her collection.

Her first Bratz doll is also her favorite: Cloe, a member of the Bratz Rock Angels, a band. Alecx colored her hair with the streaks similar to Cloe and she plays the other dolls with their accessories on weekends.

Bratz
Rock Angelz

CLOE of the Bratz Rock Angels is Alecx's favorite.

"I like their fashion, clothes, and their hair color," Alecx said.

In a breath, Alecx can enumerate the names of the Bratz dolls.

"There's Cloe, Dana, Jade, Meygan, Sasha, Yasmin, and the boys, Ethan, Cameron, Dylan. There are also the twins and the triplets."

Alecx enjoys mix and matching their stylish clothes which include leather pants, denims, faux fur jackets, and really cool boots. The makeup kit allows her to dabble into being a makeup artist to the Bratz dolls.

"They are so fashionable," she said. "It's nice when they wear leather pants with the boots on. And I like their hair especially when they have colors like red."

Alecx lost track of the number of her collection. She has everything and anything Bratz in her room. Most of them are gifts from her mom and dad especially when she does well in school.

Alecx, who is also a commercial and print model of various products, brings some of her collection with her when she goes out on a trip.

"Sometimes I bring the one with the scooter to the beach," she said. "I bring some of them with the bag."

One of the many bags where she neatly keeps the dolls was bought by her mom from the States. "The other two, I bought them here," she said.

Her fascination with Bratz does not end with collecting just the dolls. She also has two telephones which represents the Bratz craze: a high-heeled-shoe and the Bratz signature lips designs. Some of the items are no longer available in the market, making them real collector's items.

During the Bratz dress-up contest here in the Philippines, Alecx emerged as one of the winners, proof that she is a true-blue Bratz fan.

The story of the Bratz's life also interests Alecx.

"I like to know their life in school, also I enjoy the mysteries in the stories," said this fifth-grader from Maria Montessori.

And like any other Bratz fan, Alecx knows the latest about her favorite dolls as she visits their website regularly.

"They have six videos," she said. "They have a series in the States which began Sep. 4 but we don't have it here yet."

Alecx has a penchant for collecting other stuff. She enthusiastically shows her collection of sea shells she got during family trips. She is also into Harry Potter, books, and magazines.

Aside from collecting dolls, Alecx is enjoying reading Nancy Drew books. She also writes stories. And like most pre-teeners, she is discovering her other interests. She's been playing drums, bongos, and the piano. In school, Alecx is a consistent honor student who also enjoys playing volleyball.

Alecx's Bratz and other collection no longer fit into her room. And one room in their home will soon house her increasing collection.

She is waiting for the new Bratz models, which will soon be available in stores to add to her growing collection of hip, cool, and fashionable dolls.

THE FIFTH-GRADER loves to collect various stuff 'because it's fun.'

HIJACKED IN CEBU:

The Motorola E398 Experience

MOTOROLA E398 REWRITES THE DEFINITION of Hijack and makes it more sensory -appealing exactly the kind the young set is craving for.

Launching Motorola E398 handset Hijacked by MTV, Motorola with MTV kicked up a storm in Cebu's youth scene and the whole mobile phone experience and sent the mercury some degrees higher in the Queen City of the South.

The limited-edition repackaged mobile phone is not your parents' phone. It comes preloaded with wallpapers, screensavers, phonebook IDs and skins with in your face characters and alternative illustrations. The mobile-fueled MTV generation will have a fix at the ringtones and alerts- all hijacked to put a new spin on audio reality.

Cebuanos went in droves to Motorola hives to gulp the whole Motorola Hijack experience. In the Hijack hive, throngs queued to take their mugshot photos and profess, "I've been Hjacked by Motorola." In the Motomusic station, most went gaga to tryout the Hijack phones and compete for premium items. Band fans too, gathered around the Boto Moto booth and poll to vote for their favorite artists.

Motorola E398 Hijacked by MTV and Motorola Universal Bluetooth accessories also became crowd pleasers serving as prizes for pre-event games and electronic raffle.

In search for the 1st Moto-Alert's Lokal Artist, the Motorola-MTV tandem trooped to SM City Cebu with the country's biggest bands - Parokya ni Edgar, Sugarfree, Kitchie Nadal and Kjwan, loads of premium giveaways and got 15,000 crowd fully-charged.

Cebu's homegrown talents Jr. Kilat and Urbandub held their ground and proved their worth vis-à-vis their Manila counterpart. MTV VJs KC Montero, Marc Abaya, Cindy Kurleto, Mariel Rodriguez, Maike Evers, and John Joe Joseph traded wit and friendly banter as the night's hip hosts.

But the event's high point was when the six bands who performed vied to become the 1st Moto-Alert's Lokal Artist. The night's winner also went home P50,000 richer and proud owner of Motorola E398 Hijacked.

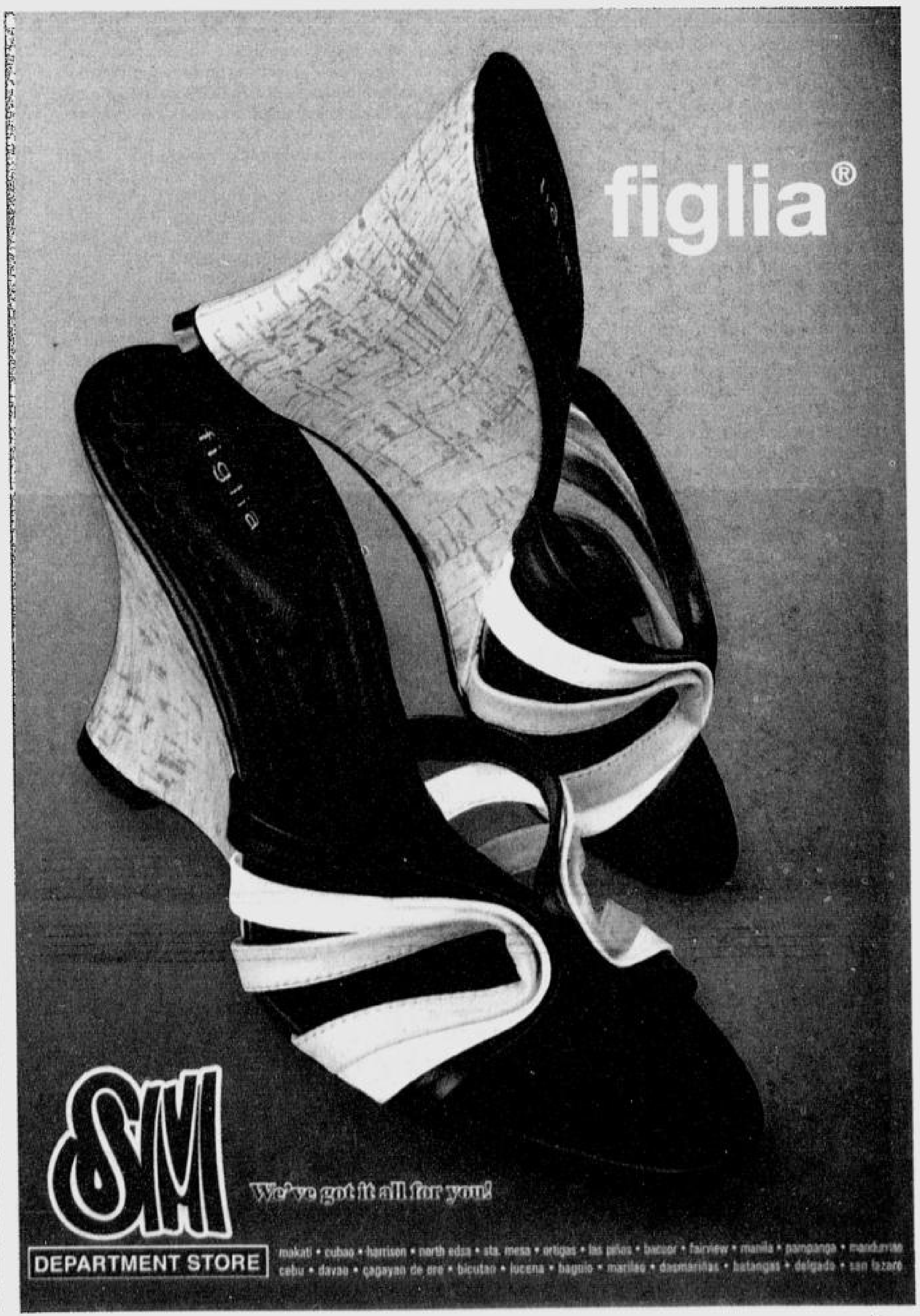
Indie sensation, Urbandub bagged the award and prizes when they received most votes through Motorola's Boto Moto promo, an interactive voting system where the audience is given a voice to choose their favorite artist as well as a chance to win instant prizes.

"Motorola and MTV are answering consumers' desire for a true-to-life mobile music experience that easily connects users to the music, videos, artists they enjoy and the information they need," said Mari Litonjua, marketing head for Mobile Devices Business of Motorola Communications Philippines Inc.

As Motorola positions itself to the young music-oriented market, it teams up with MTV in taking music to the next level.

Adds Litonjua, "We wanted to open doors to up-and-coming artists."

Motorola E398 offers its users a total music immersion experience at the palm of their hands. With stereo surround sound, vibration technology and rhythm lights, they can see and feel the music as the phone lights up and vibrates to the beat of the music. Built in with integrated Bluetooth® wireless technology, they connect hands-free while on the move.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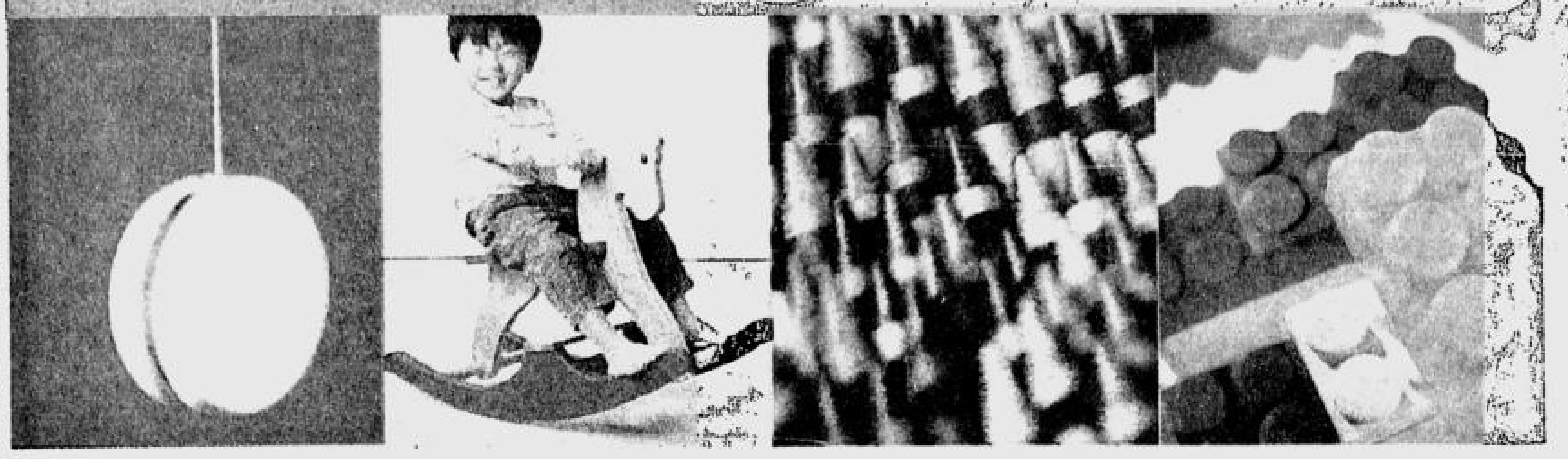
Some toy trivia



• THE WORLD'S OLDEST BOARD GAME IS believed to be The Royal Game of Ur, which was played in Babylon for over 5,000 years.

• Chances are, you wouldn't know Elliot and Ruth Handler's daughter and son if they sat down next to you. But you would know the name of their daughter, Barbie and their son, Ken. Yes, the inventors of these dolls named them after their children.

• Barbie Doll's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

• Every second, two Barbie dolls are sold Mattel, makers of Barbie and all her friends, is the 4th largest manufacturer of women's clothes in the world. This is based on the amount of fabric that Mattel orders to make the many clothes for Barbie and her friends. Imagine where they would be if Barbie was life size!

• The Teddy Bear was first sold in Brooklyn, in 1902. The name Teddy Bear comes from a cartoon in the American Washington Star, November 18th 1902. The cartoon depicted an event where Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (26th President of the United States) ordered the mercy killing of a wounded bear during a hunt.

• The word "toy" comes from an Old English word meaning tool.

• The record for playing the board game Monopoly underwater is 1,080 hours.

• The traditional Yo-Yo is believed to be the second oldest toy in known history.

• Dating back to Roman times, Dolls are considered to be the oldest toys in history.

• The ingredients of the traditional gooey kids toy Play-Doh is still a secret to this day.

• "Clue: The Movie" starring Tim Curry was the first ever film based on a board game (Cluedo).

• There have been over 5 billion houses built for the traditional board game Monopoly since 1935.

• Lego is the world's largest vehicle tire manufacturer, producing 311 million mini-tires in 2001.

• In the 1960s the traditional rocking horse had almost become extinct, but during the last few decades a small group of talented British restorers have revived an almost lost art form, and by today more and more makers of these beautiful traditional toys are emerging.

• Joseph Lionel Cowen's toy, the Lionel train invented in 1901 was originally intended for advertising.

• John Lloyd Wright came up with the idea for Lincoln Logs while watching his dad build the Imperial Hotel using an interlocking method.

• We usually do not think of Walt Disney as a toy inventor, but all those products of Disney Characters count for a huge chunk of the toy market.

• In 1957, wooden rings were sold in stores after their success as an exercise tool in Australian schools. Toymakers Richard P. Knerr and Arthur K. Melvin of Wham-O caught wind of the idea and started selling plastic hoops in the United States.

• Lego comes from the Danish words "leg godt" which means "play well."

• Pokémon is one of the hottest crazes to sweep the country. Pokémon means pocket monster. These pocket-sized fellas can follow you everywhere.

• Kids have colored with Crayola crayons since the late 1800s. Artist Grant Wood was doodling with Crayola crayons long before he painted "American Gothic," (the pitchfork-wielding farm couple). Kids spend an average of 28 minutes a day coloring.

• Of Crayola's 96 colors, red and blue remain the most popular.

• Frisbee, a classic toy, took its name from a New Haven, Connecticut, bakery.

• How many feet of wire does it take to make one Slinky? 80.

• The Slinky was found to greatly increase the reception of military radios during the Vietnam War.

• Yoyo was popular entertainment in the French Royal Courts of the 1700s.

• Six Lego blocks will fit together in how many different ways? 102,981,500 ways

• Tonka trucks are named after Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka.

Source: frank-orth.com, thelittlewoodshop.co.uk, familyeducation.com, almanac.com

A child's life will never be complete without toys: be it bought in a store or made from scrap materials. As long as they enjoy playing with it nothing really matters.

DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW YOUR favorite toy landed in the stores? Check out the list and dates to find out

A child's life will never be complete without toys: be it bought in a store or made from scrap materials. As long as they enjoy playing with it, nothing really matters. But as the child grows up, curiosity sinks in on the history of how the toys he or she once played with.

Different toys have different stories. Their origins, creator, and when it was made sometimes spur the interest of many. Below are some important dates in the history of the child's—or even adult's—object of undivided fascination.

1901 - Meccano goes on sale in the United Kingdom. It was invented by Frank Hornby in Liverpool, it captures the spirit of the age with a challenging construction toy. One of the century's leading toymakers and creator of Hornby train sets (1920, and see 1925) and Dinky Toys. Hornby died in 1936.

1902 - In the United States, the Teddy Bear is created by a Russian emigrant named Morris Mitchtom who had seen a report of US President Teddy Roosevelt who declined to shoot a bear cub while out hunting. Clifford

To
st

TIENDESITAS: Pinoy

ORTIGAS & COMPANY, ONE OF THE PHILIPPINE'S most respected names in the real estate and property development industry, inaugurates this month Tiendesitas, a new shopping experience expected to rival the highly successful and world-renowned Chatuchak Market of Bangkok, Thailand. The management team of Greenhills Shopping Center, the country's value-shopping mecca, will also manage the Tiendesitas operations. This will ensure the complementation and synergy of both shopping destinations which cater primarily to value-conscious foreign and domestic shoppers.

Tiendesitas is an integral part of Frontera Verde, an interim 18.5-hectare Ortigas development project at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5), Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. Other locators in Frontera Verde are SM Hypermart, a Fun Ranch for Kids, an Automall, a Wellness Center, a Technology Corridor, a Shell super station with retail outlets, and restaurants strategically spread around the complex. "Pasig City's newest shopping and family entertainment corridor will be the Philippine's pride," says Cathy Casares-Ko, head of Ortigas & Company's Real Estate Division.

PHILIPPINE SHOWCASE

Tiendesitas will showcase the best the Philippines can offer - native food, fashion wear and accessories, furniture, antiques, handicrafts, personal care and novelty items, pets, plants and other proudly Philippine -made products. It is a 30,000 sqm - complex of "villages" featuring stylized and unique Filipino architecture. The twelve (12) pavilions in the complex took inspiration from Maranao architecture, which in turn traces its roots back to the bahay kubo. Indigenous materials were used in creative ways. Cogon grass was chemically treated and used for the roof; old calesa wheels were transformed into chandelier frames to light up the restrooms; duyans were scattered around the development to allow for short breaks amidst frenzied shopping activities. Special attention was given to the needs of the disabled and the elderly in the design of the complex. The result is a novel interpretation of the conventional bahay kubo form. Lush tropical landscaping around and within the development provide a refreshing respite from the mall-complex atmosphere, and contributes to a totally pleasurable shopping experience. All these elements make Tiendesitas the perfect place to showcase Pinoy's Best . . . Everyday.

More than four hundred fifty traders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao specializing in merchandise from all the regions not usually found in mainstream retail outlets are exhibiting their wares in Tiendesitas' conveniently laid-out shopping pavilions. Haggling ala-tiangge will be the norm as shoppers discover the treasures and pleasures of Philippine-made goods and produce.

NIGHT MARKET

A welcome feature of Tiendesitas is that shopping hours are from 12 noon to 12 midnight. "This is the best time for working people who can only shop after work. And, tourists love the idea of the night market," says Joey Santos, general manager. Acoustics and show bands will perform during weekends to create a festive atmosphere.

EXHIBITS

An area in Tiendesitas will be dedicated to special trade shows, exhibits, and unique Filipino cultural presentations that are scheduled year-round. When Tiendesitas formally opens on Monday, September 26, a Bonsai exhibit at the People's Village will run for a week, followed by an Antique exhibit in October.

"The whole place will be bustling with activity and we expect it to become one of Asia's major shopping and entertainment attractions," says COO Rex Drilon II.

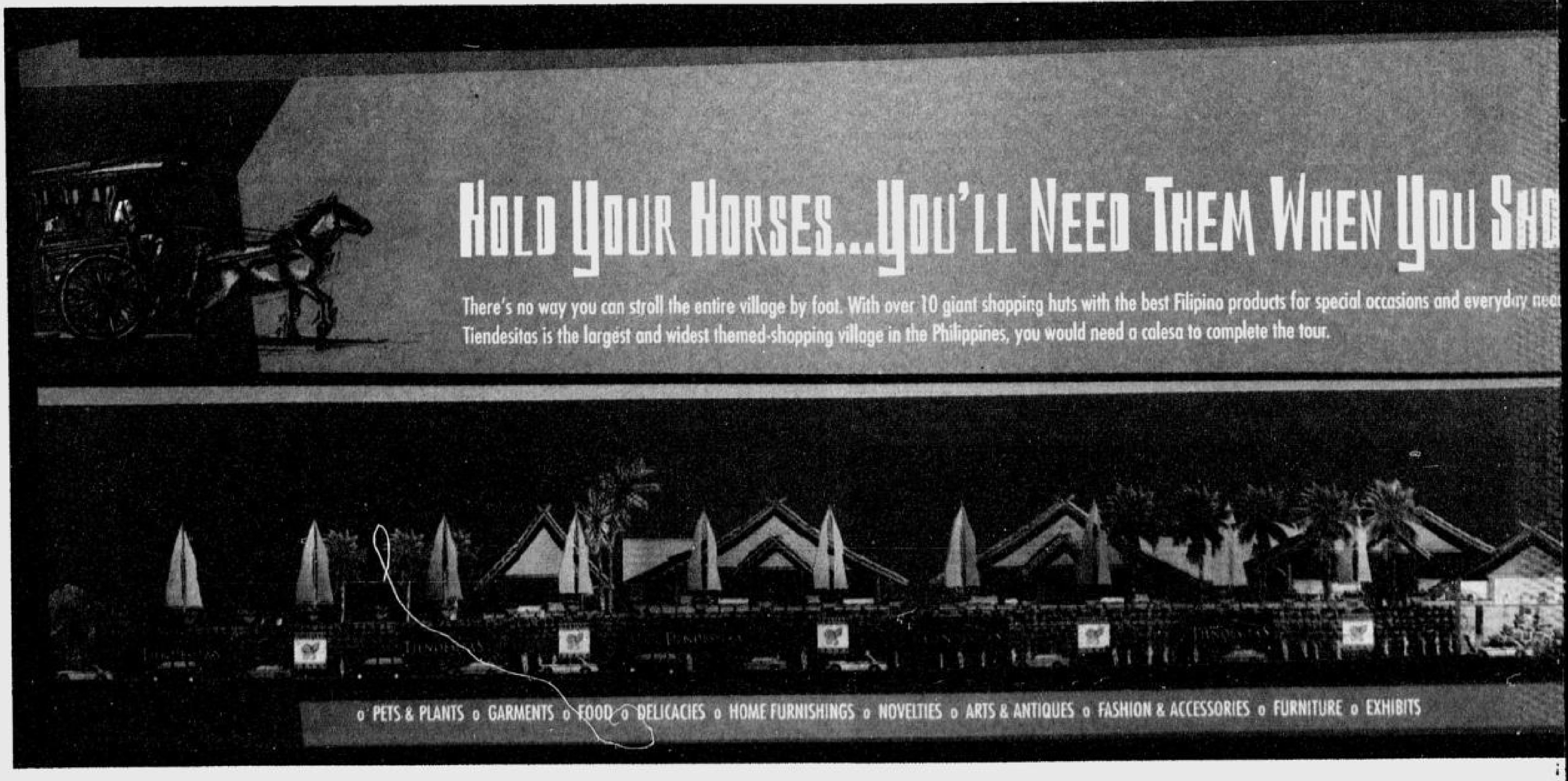
TIENDESITAS VILLAGES

Handicrafts Village

Export-quality Philippine-made handicrafts (by members of Philippine Chamber of Handicrafts Industries) from home décor to fashion accessories which are not seen in regular retail outlets are found at the Handicrafts Village. Benguet handicrafts are included in the limited edition merchandise to be found here. The unique local treasures at the Handicrafts Village will surely make it an ideal source of gifts and furnishings.

Fashion Village

The Fashion Village is a dream venue for young, creative, and budding entrepreneurs to display their


Hold Your Horses...You'll Need Them When You Sh
o PETS & PLANTS o GARMENTS o FOOD o DELICACIES o HOME FURNISHINGS o NOVELTIES o ARTS & ANTIQUES o FASHION & ACCESSORIES o FURNITURE o EXHIBITS
There's no way you can stroll the entire village by foot. With over 10 giant shopping huts with the best Filipino products for special occasions and everyday nee
Tiendesitas is the largest and widest themed-shopping village in the Philippines, you would need a calesa to complete the tour.

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Berryman's celebrated newspaper cartoon captured this moment and Mitchcom launched his range of "Teddy" bears in his Brooklyn shop. German toymaker Margarete Steiff began making jointed toy animals including bears, and they were also able to cash in on the teddy bear craze in the United States, which spread worldwide.

1903 - Edward Binney, C. Harold Smith produce Crayola crayons.

1908 - Plasticine goes on sale.

1909 - The Kewpie Doll devised by Rose O'Neill was patented in 1935.

1910 - Daisy Air Rifles go on sale.

1914 - Tinker Toys is an interlocking construction toy.

1925 - Hornby produces the first electric train sets in the world.

1929 - Yo-Yo was rediscovered by Frank Duncan in Los Angeles when he saw waiters from the Philippines playing with their traditional Yo-Yo. It can be traced back to Ancient Greece. In the Philippines it was (said to be) a weapon (like a boomerang) for hunting and war until later it became a sporting item, then later a plaything. In 1930 Duncan brought over demonstrators to Europe to play in the music halls—and the craze took off.

1930 - Charlotte Cla starts making Mickey Mouse dolls in the United States based on the first Disney cartoon first screened in 1928.

1934 - Corgi starts to manufacture toy cars and other models. In 1965, their model Aston Martin from the first James Bond film became the very first BATR Toy of the Year.

1932 - US architect Alfred Butt begins work on what will become the famous board game, Scrabble. He calls it Lexico. (See 1940) In Denmark, Ole Kirk Christiansen started his Lego toy company. Lego means "play well" in Danish (leg godt). Later he discovered that Lego in Latin means "to put together." (See 1955)

1935 - Monopoly arrives in the United Kingdom. Invented in the United States by Charles Darrow in 1933, patent filed in Aug. 31, 1935 while on sale in America. It was made under license in the United Kingdom by Waddingtons. Darrow died in 1967.

Minibrix made by the Premo Rubber Co. using the studs and cavity device which paved the way for plastic interlocking bricks pioneered by Hilary Page in the 1940s.

1943 - Richard James, researching a suspension device develops the Slinky. It goes on sale in 1945.

1948 - Criss Cross Words invented by Alfred Butt (originally Lexico) fails to sell well and is sold to James Brunot who changes the name to Scrabble. Sales average was just 8,000 but in 1953 to 1955 it suddenly takes off with sales reaching 4.5 million sets. (See 1954)

1949 - Leeds-based Waddington's produces mystery board-game, Cluedo.

1965 - Stanley Weston created a doll for boys. It went on sale in the United States as GI Joe, but came to Britain and was renamed Action Man. This was, and still is, the world's first and most successful male doll. In recent years the militaristic figure has developed into a more adventurous character. These types of dolls for males are better known as "action figures."

1959 - Founders of US toy company Mattel Elliot and Ruth Handler created Barbie and boy friend Ken. Forty years later, it still dominates the fashion doll market worldwide. There are also ethnic Barbies and friends. Barbie's controversial figure was changed for some models to allow her to wear more casual clothes, and she has also developed into a more interesting role model encouraging careers into veterinary medicine and teaching, among others.

Researched by Gerald Masters for BATR. The site http://www.toyretailersassociation.co.uk also acknowledges the many sources used, including the History Channel, the "Pan Book of Dates" and the Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green, as well as some of the companies involved.

y

ory

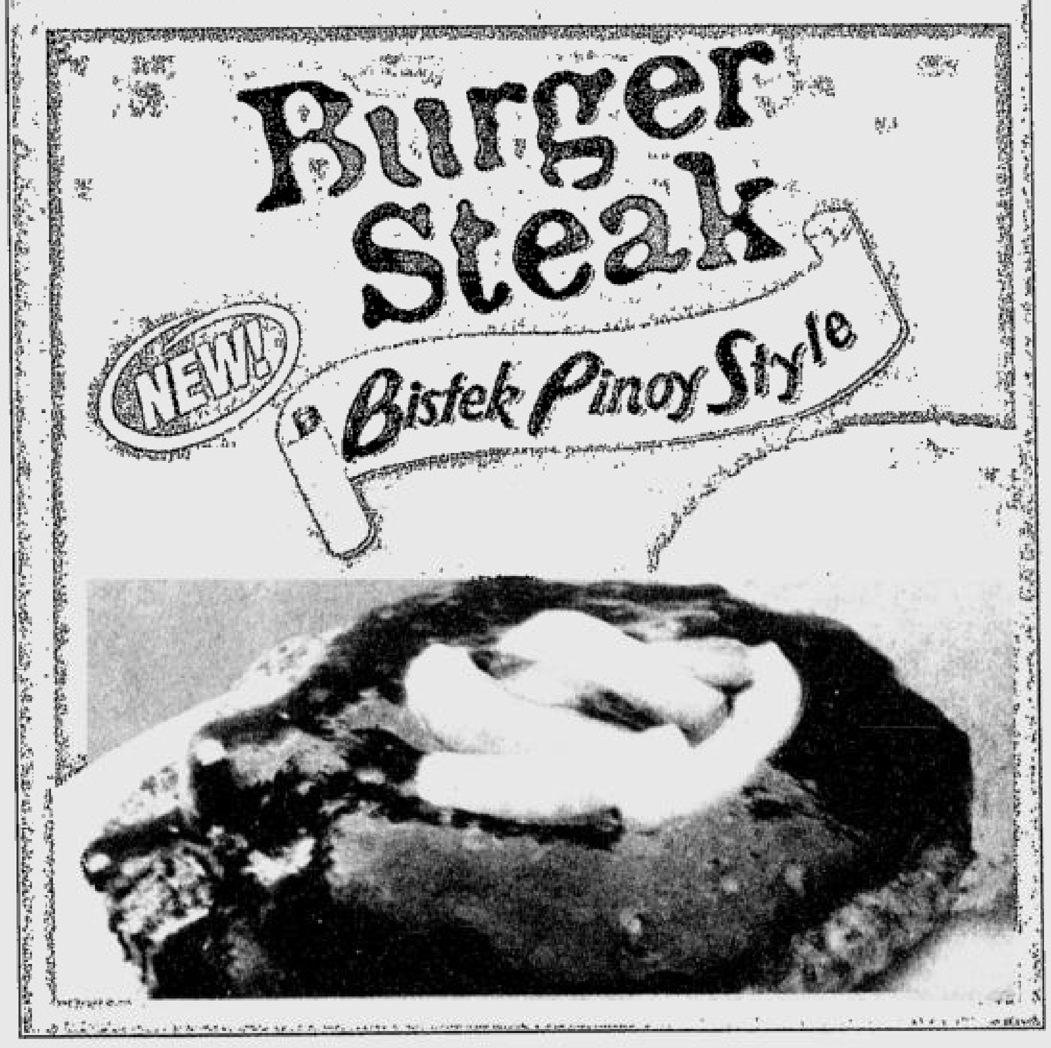
New and special treats for yuppies at Jollibee

THE TRUE TEST OF ONE'S INGENUITY is on how he's able to make the most out of any given situation. This includes how you can make the most of tight budgets such as using all your cell phone load up to the last second or making sure you get your change from vendors or taxi drivers. With today's tough times, Pinoys are learning to double up their *diskarte*.

When it comes to finding a place that serves great tasting food for lunch that's within your budget, there's no better option than Jollibee, home of everything Langhap Sarap. With the yuppies and working class in mind, Jollibee recently introduced its new Burger Steak Bistek Pinoy Style. Savory soy sauce blended with tangy *calamansi* and laced with the distinct taste of onions - The Bistek Tagalog is a classic favorite of the Pinoy palate. The unique Pinoy flavors of Bistek sauce topped over *langhap-sarap* Yum! patties made from 100-percent pure beef and freshly steamed rice make this new offering an irresistible delight at a pocket friendly price.

A perfect lunch treat for people on the go, the new Burger Steak Bistek Style is even better enjoyed with a cool glass of the new Jolly Mango Shake. The newest fruity offering from Jolly 'Zerts makes for a great, sweet and deliciously refreshing partner to a sumptuous Pinoy meal.

So make a wise move, head over to the nearest Jollibee for a satisfyingly filling serving of the new Burger Steak Bistek Style and a chillin' glass of Jolly Mango Shake. And be absolutely thrilled with Jollibee's newest Pinoy delights.



's Best . . . Everyday

works and to practice their business skills on their way to becoming recognized in the world of fashion apparel. The next generation of Marikina's pride also gets to showcase their own flair in designing shoes and bags here.

Personal Care and Novelties Village

Homegrown, homemade organic soaps, lotions and aromatherapy lines developed by enterprising traders are some of the thriving products in the market today. While these products normally surface only during bazaars, the Personal Care and Novelties Village allows them a year-round place to be exhibited and marketed to the public.

Pets Village

The Pets Village is not your traditional pet shop. Licensed pet dealers showcase exotic animals, rare species of birds, primates, snakes and iguanas. Domestic pets such as Labradors, Siamese cats, as well as various species of parrots and parakeets are also available.

Plants Village

A garden of earthly delights! Potted plants, orchids, fruit-bearing trees and ornamentals are a feast for the eyes! Gardening enthusiasts will certainly revel in the variety of garden ornaments, décor and accessories that our shops offer.

Antiques Village

Henry Babiera's "Mana Manila" is the anchor tenant for this Antiques Village. Henry's finds from all over the country are a real steal in this haven of history and artistry.

Furniture Village

Modern export-quality furniture which finds its way to New York and other lifestyle capitals of the world can be found in the Furniture Village. Interior designers will delight in bringing their clients here for furnishing requirements.

Food Village

Before shoppers drop, the best stop is the Food Village where just about all the favorite specialties of foodies abound. Care for Something Piggy . . . Sometimes, Fishy? Or, perhaps halo-halo of all varieties? The Food Village has these and more . . . ihaw-ihaw galore, Minette's Inasal, Tita Lynne's Flavored Suman, Three Sisters' Pasig Pancit with chicharon, budbod of Taytay (rice toppings) - you name it, your appetite will crave for it! Products from the country's premier farms like Nenita's and Dizon's will also be made available here.

Delicacies

On the way out, pasalubong discoveries are Vigan's empanada and longganisa, Tacloban's suman sa latik, and Cebu's famous danggit. There are always new additions to the delicious local delicacies from different regions.

Wet Market

On weekends, starting at 6 a.m., a seafood market brings the freshest live catch from Philippine waters which homemakers and chefs can transform into various culinary creations.

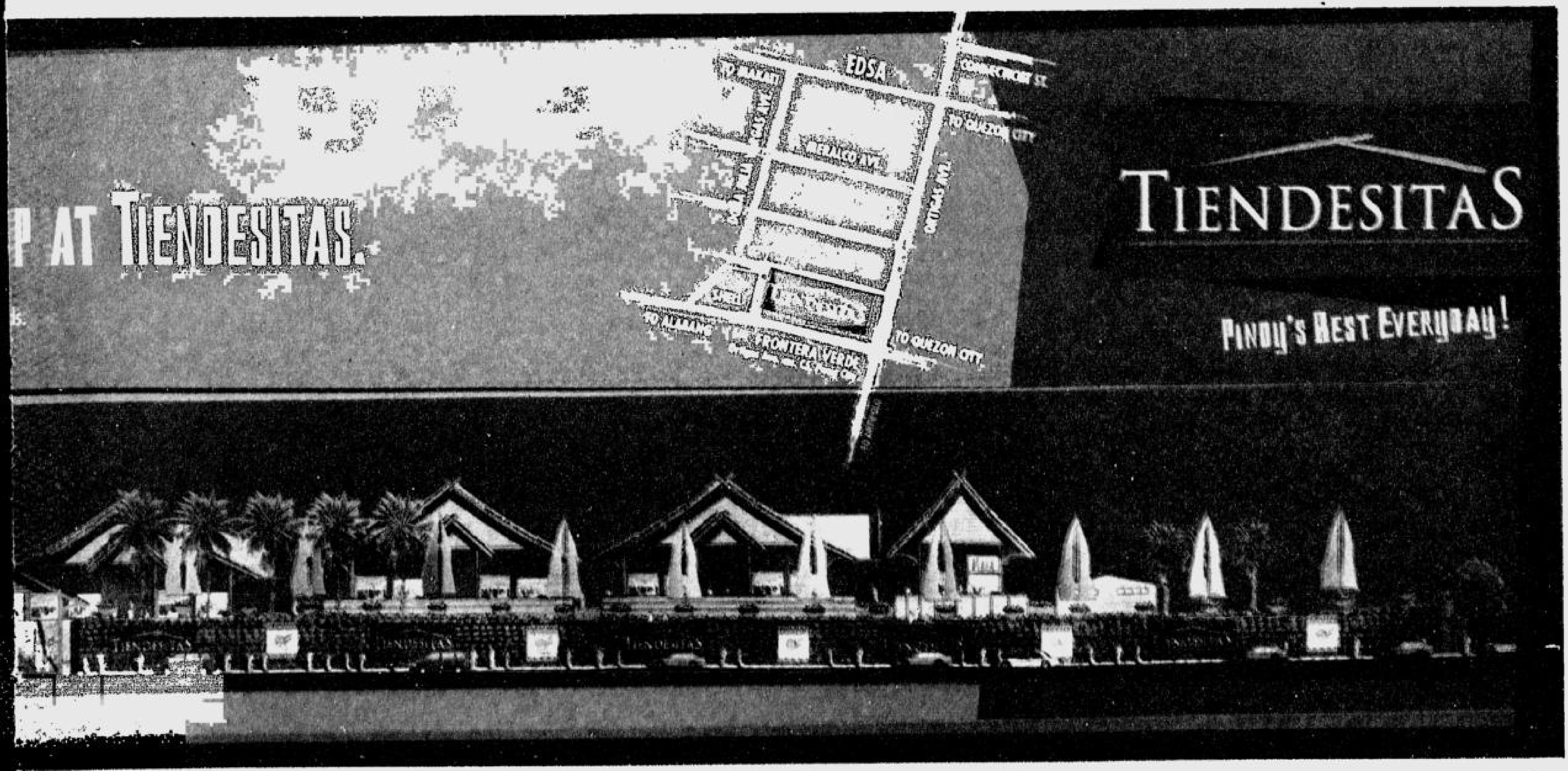
"As we have incubated hundreds of now successful businesses and national brands in Greenhills Shopping Center like Bayo, Kamiseta, Toby's and Folded & Hung, we hope to produce an even greater number of successful entrepreneurs in Tiendesitas," says Drilon.

With Tiendesitas, entrepreneurs from the provinces with unique products or products with outstanding value propositions can find a home in Metro Manila.

"It is a source of pride and privilege that we in Ortigas & Company, in partnership with hundreds of entrepreneurs from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, are given this opportunity to showcase the best that the Filipino can create and produce. If more Filipinos can see the creativity, the beauty, and the quality of products made by Filipinos, perhaps we can learn to love our country a little bit more," he adds.

Aside from the highly-successful Greenhills Shopping Center, other Ortigas projects that have become models in real estate development are the Ortigas Center (a CBD), the three Greenhills Subdivisions, the six Valle Verde villages and the three Greenmeadows residential enclaves.

"Tiendesitas is only consistent with the track record of Ortigas & Company as a preferred partner in real estate and property development ventures in the last 74 years," Drilon concludes.



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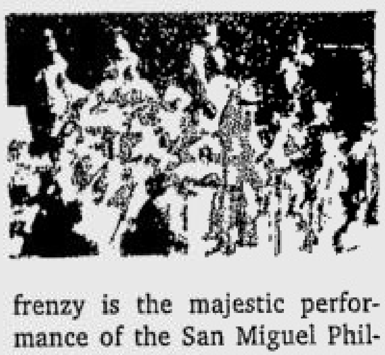
The Podium's 3-day sale

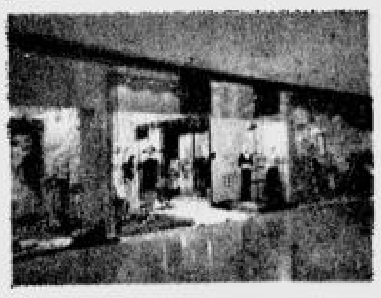
TO SHOP IS HUMAN... TO splurge divine! Indulge in three days of pure shopping bliss at The Podium's 3-day sale on Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2. With fabulous discounts of up to 70 percent and exciting promos at The Podium's shops and restos, this is one sale you just can't miss. Here's the heads up on the incredible finds in store:

- Fashionistas will go ecstatic with sensational discounts of up to 50 percent at British India, and 65 percent at Jessica/Episode. If casual chic is your thing then do check out Girbaud's 40-percent discount, or swing over to Kamiseta, Bayo, and Bench who are knocking down prices by 50 percent, Kate, Jack & Gingersnaps, Just G, and Buffalo David Bitton are offering up to 70 percent off, while Giordano is going all out with up to 80 percent off on selected items.
- The well-heeled will find irresistible discounts of up to 40 percent at Lacoste Footwear, and over at CMG where they are offering an amazing 50 to 70 percent off on all items.
- There are also exciting finds for men gallantly escorting their better halves on this shopping excursion. At Nautica, get up to 40 percent off on pants, shorts, jackets, and polo shirts; take advantage of a 50-percent discount on polos at Arrow, or go sole searching and get up to 65 percent off on shoes at Dexter.
- For the sporty set head to Adidas and avail yourself of discounts of up to 40 percent and up to 70 percent at Speedo; adventure and outdoor junkies can get up to 10 percent off at Columbia Sportwear; while health and fitness buffs can get fantastic freebies from Finix such as dumbells and beauty bells with selected purchases.
- 'Tis the season for sparkle and shine and what better way to dazzle than with jewellery from Goldworks, which is offering up to 25 percent off on selected pieces.
- Treat yourself to luxurious timepieces from L Time with its discounts of up to 20 percent on DKNY, Kenneth Cole, Emporio Armani, Anne Klein, Lacoste, Diesel, Fossil, Reaction, Victorinox Swiss Army Watches, and Nike.
- Great book bargains abound at Datablitz with its 10-percent discount on books; National Bookstore Bestsellers' 20 percent off on selected items; and fab finds on imported magazines at Mio Magazine.
- The food and wine connoisseur will delight in exquisite finds and discounts at Terry Selection with its 50-percent discount on selected items; and at Ralph's Wines and Spirits with up to 27 percent off.
- In between all that fabulous shopping, don't forget to recharge at any of The Podium's fine restaurants and cafes. At Akiga, guests can enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine and get 50 percent off on such specialties as Kalastove, Teriyaki, and Shiovaki; sumptuous cakes are made even more tempting with Cheesecake Etc's 10-percent discount on its signature cheesecakes; and at Nach-O-Fast get 25 percent off on its trademark to-die-for nachos. At Cafe Breton, guests can avail themselves of a free brewed coffee refill for every crepe order.



Topping off the shopping frenzy is the majestic performance of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and San Miguel Master Chorale led by maestro Ryan Cayabyab. Shoppers shouldn't miss them as they perform at the mall's Lounge on Friday, Sep. 30 at 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1 and 2 at 5 p.m.

Key in these dates on your PDAs and enjoy fantastic shopping at The Podium's 3-day sale. Mall hours during the 3-day sale are from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.



SM MALL managers Jason Terrenal of Lucena, Emmanuel Magsino of Dasmariñas and SM regional operations manager Juancho Sibal receive the plaques of appreciation for their support for EMB campaigns and projects.

DENR cites SM Supermalls

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIronment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently cited the SM Supermalls for supporting its various programs and projects in a program held recently at the Jade Valley Restaurant in Quezon City.

Director Sixto Tolentino of the Calabarzon Environment Management-Program awarded the SM Supermalls a plaque of recognition to SM executives representing the malls in Region 4. These included regional mall manager Juancho Sibal, SM City Dasmariñas mall manager Emmanuel Magsino; and SM City assistant mall manager John Jason Terrenal during the simple ceremonies.

Apart from its ongoing waste management and water recycling programs, the SM Supermalls have become the venue of several DENR projects. This partnership has made possible more awareness about DENR campaigns through contestants and events.

These include the On the Spot Painting Contest at SM City Dasmariñas, which was held in celebration of the Environment Month. High school students in the area creatively interpreted the Green Cities, Plan for Planet theme in their works. Neil Bryan Lipata of the Bacoor National High School won the top prize, while Nunez Brozela and Joana Junsay, both of the Los Baños National High School, garnered second and third place, respectively.

Another project, the Bantay Tambutso sa Mall, was held both at SM City Dasmariñas and SM City Lucena. This was participated in by local government and Land Transportation Office officials, as well as different transport groups, industrial, and environmental groups.

A Slogan Writing Contest themed on the protection of the environment was also held at SM City Bacoor. Twenty five high school students in the Southern Tagalog region joined the contest, which aimed to encourage more members of the private sector to participate in DENR programs.

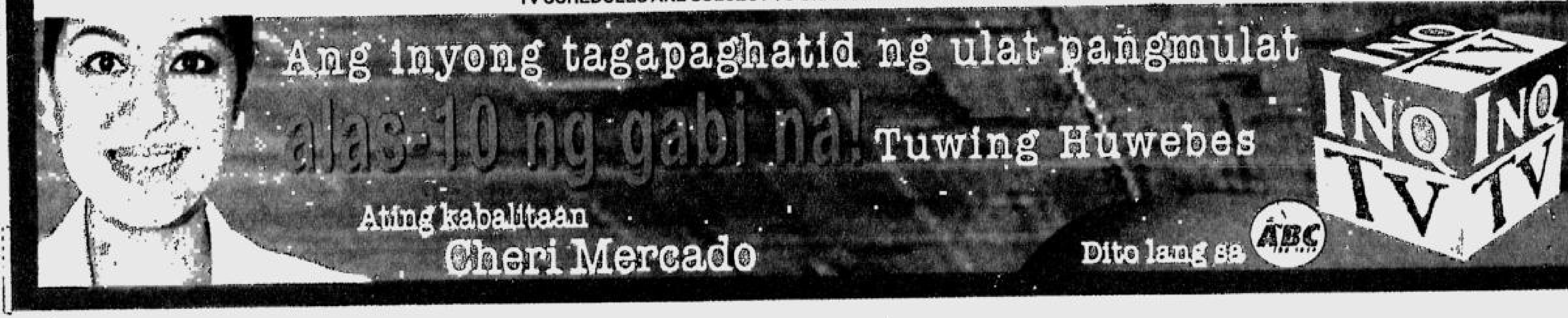
During the awarding, SM representatives pledged to continue supporting DENR's projects for a "clean and green environment."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, September 30, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opkis	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		US X Games				Sentro	PBA Primer					Big News	Real Stories		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Kamen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Boarding House		The OC		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								The Batman	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	Pimp My Ride	Rockola	MTV Pop Inc		Trippin	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Live		Massive	MTV Play	Diyes		MTV Urban Beats	A Test Of Bravery	Viva La Bam	Trippin	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Remakes	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN			Major League Baseball						2005 WPBA Midwest Classic		English Premier League Preview	Sportscenter Asia	World Pool Masters '04 Holland		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports			Greatest Classics				FIVB World Grand Prix '05						Sports Desk	WTA 2005			NBA Action	TV Over Time	GWS
Sports Plus				NFL 2005						World's Greatest Auto Shows		Monster Jam	West Lebanon Show	FMX	Pittsburgh Show A	Presidents Cup 2005			
Cinemax			Dr. Cyclops (3.45 PM)			A League Of Their Own				Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines				The Assassin			Body Snatchers (10.45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Judging Amy		While I Was Gone			Wife Swap (10.35PM)		Mysterious Way(11.25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Magnetic Storm		The Most Extreme		American Chopper		The Future Is Wild		Beehives And Runaway Brides		Crime Night	
National Geographic		Extraterrestrial				Nomads In Space		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		NG Specials/ Megacities Week		[illegible]	[illegible]		
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/Right On Top	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	My Dad The Rock Star		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	El True Hollywood Story		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Thomas Crown Affair	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		Angel		Friends	Karen Sisco
AXN		24		24		Worst Case Scenario		Alias (Season III)		The Contender		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		Dracula: Dead And Loving It			
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Swent	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Little Nicky				Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	The Monster Squad			Looney Tunes: Back In Action			My Little Eye			Combustion			The Big Preview: Syriana	Lord Of The Rings: Return Of The King					
Star Movies			Mojave Moon (3:35 PM)			American Born Confused Desi				Parenthood (6:55 PM)				Runaway Jury				Ravenous (11.10PM)	
Cinema One		Alat				Waiting		Mabuting Kaibigan, Mortal Na Kaaway				Kaaway Hanggang Hukay				Waray			
EWTN	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Angelus (3.15PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9.15PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And Catechism Of Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Scream for more treats! Scream for lower prices!

THE CHAIN MARTS!
SUPER VALUE STORES

MAKATI Supermart
ALABANG

Theater Drive cor. Commerce Ave., Alabang Town Center,
Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang Muntinlupa
Tels. 850-7687 • 809-2208 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

UniMart

Greenhills Shopping Center
Tels. 721-0592 • 721-0612
Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

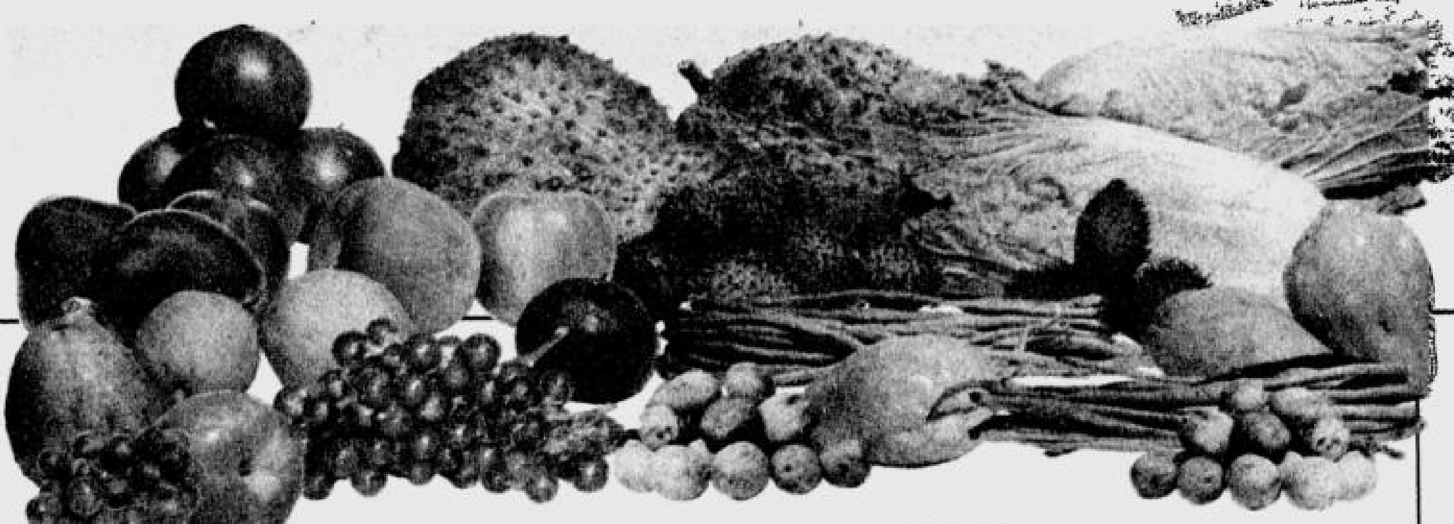
CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

Buendia cor. South Superhighway
Tels. 844-7386 • 843-7382 • 843-3469
Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

Pre-Halloween SALE

From September 30 to October 17, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2468, series of 2005.



Franzia
California Red/White Wine
750ml P173.00/bot

Crimson's Seedless Red Grapes P189.00/kg • **Washington Red Apple** P73.50/kg • **Fragrant Pears** P76.50/kg • **Red Star China Apples** P45.25/kg • **Lanzones** P52.50/kg • **Rambutan** P31.50/kg • **Dalandan** P15.75/kg • **Guyabano** P26.25/kg • **Guava** P26.25/kg • **Sitao** P36.75/kg • **Womboc** P26.25/kg • **Sayote** P6.85/kg

Don Simon
Red/White Wine
75cl P117.50/bot

Milo
Chocolate Drink Refill
200g P33.80/pk 300g P48.45/pk
1kg P151.95/pk 1.6kg P227.90/can

Purefoods
Chunkee Corned Beef 350g P50.85/can
Tender Juicy Hotdog Cocktail
1kg P154.80/bag

CDO
Chinese Style Luncheon Meat 165g P19.90/can
Vienna Sausage 114g P19.90/can
Regular Sweet Ham 500g P88.50/pk
Regular Cooked Ham 500g P88.50/pk

Nestle Ice Cream
Light & Creamy, Mangoes & Cream, Coffee & Cream
750ml P119.50/tub

Kitkat
Chunky Choco, White 46g P23.40/bar
Fox's Fruit Pouch 100g P29.50/pk
Milo Wafer 25g P8.70/bar
Wafer Multipack 3/25g P25.90/pk

Progresso Rich & Healthy Soup Chicken & Noodle, Chicken Rayoe Style, Savory Beef Vegetable 537g P122.50/can
Minestrone, Lentil, Chicken Wild Rice, Chickenora 540g P113.00/can
Bread Crumbs Plain, Italian 425g P70.50/can
Bread Crumbs Garlic Herb Plain, Italian 425g P103.50/can
Balsamic Vinegar 500ml P170.00/bot
Wine Flavor Vinegar 355ml P98.00/bot

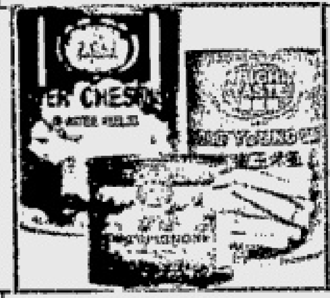
Mott's
Apple Juice 960ml P73.50/bot
Country Time
Lemonade Regular 567g P115.50/can
850g P155.50/bot

Rauch Nativa
Green Tea w/ Lemon 1L P55.00/tetra
Happy Day
Active Breakfast 1L P71.00/tetra

American Beauty
Lasagne 454g P73.50/box
Mueller
Lasagna 454g P75.50/box

Keebler
Chips De Luxe 510g Chocolate Lovers 454g
Soft N' Chewy Chips De Luxe
454g P140.00/pk
Country Style Oatmeal 454g P134.00/pk
Soft Batch Chocolate Chips 510g P126.00/pk

Old Fashioned
Grated Parmesan Cheese 227g P171.00/bot
Prego
Extra Chunky Mushroom & Green Pepper 767g
Extra Chunky Tomato, Onion & Garlic
767g P120.50/can
Spaghetti Sauce Traditional 737g P75.50/bot



Rich Taste
Young Corn 425g P21.50/can
Water Chestnut 567g P28.50/can
Whole Mushroom
198g P14.75/can 400g P24.00/can

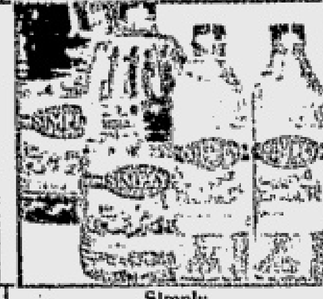
Diana
Maraschino Cherries w/ Stem
737g P166.00/bot
Masterfoods
Mint Jelly 290g P161.00/bot

Vitasoy
Pure Soya Bean Extract 1L P54.00/tetra
Calci-Plus High Calcium 1L P56.00/tetra
Doña Elena
Pure Olive Oil 250ml P81.00/bot
Extra Virgin Olive Oil 250ml P83.00/bot

Heinz
Tomato Ketchup Squeeze
567g P105.50/bot 1.02kg P150.50/bot
Libby's
Tomato Ketchup
397g P53.00/bot 1.02kg P108.50/bot

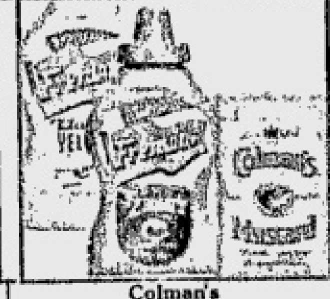
Nabisco Chips Ahoy
Chunky 426g Chewy
454g P144.00/pk
Peanut Butter
426g P148.00/pk

Bel Arte
Almonds, Hazelnut, Milk Choco, Dark Choco, White Choco, Crisp 42g P45.60/bar
Charms
Assorted Sour Ball Candy 340g P96.00/can

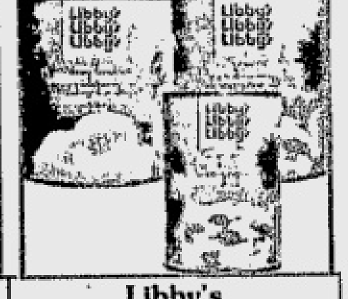


Simply
Corn Oil 1L P86.50/bot 2L P171.95/bot
Canola Oil 1L P75.00/bot 2L P149.20/bot
Soya Oil 1L P71.25/bot 2L P141.60/bot
Pure Vegetable Oil
1L P58.90/bot 2L 117.80/bot

Jaffa Gold
Red Grapefruit Juice 1L P51.80/tetra
Famous House
Grass Jelly Drink 320g Guava Juice
350g P19.50/can



Colman's
Mustard Powder 57g P181.00/can
113g P246.00/can
French's
Classic Mustard Squeeze 397g P61.00/bot
Sweet & Zesty Mustard 340g P116.00/bot

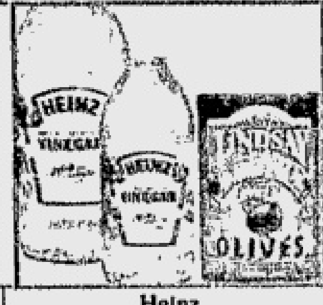


Libby's
Fruit Cocktail 432g P44.00/can
851g P59.00/can
Peach Halves 822g P59.00/can

Wei-Chuan
Young Corn Spears 425g P21.50/can
Zi-shan
Lychees 567g P29.50/can

Albers
Yellow Corn Meal 567g P85.50/box
Dextrosol
Glucose Powder 340g P81.00/box

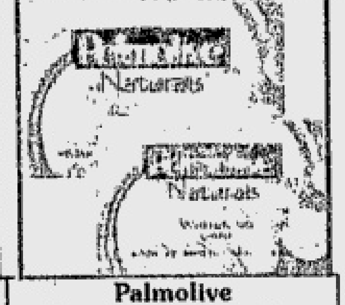
Jacobsen
Wonderful Baked w/ Butter Cookies
450g P150.50/can
Wonderful Danish Cookies 454g P160.50/can
Bourbon
Choco & Coffee 172g P70.50/box



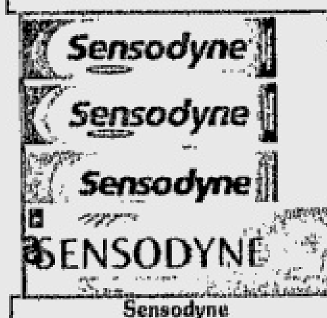
Heinz
Distilled Vinegar 480ml P52.50/bot
960ml P82.50/bot
Lindsay
Pitted Ripe Olive Medium 170g P51.00/can

Planters
Cocktail Peanut, Dry Roasted Peanut 454g P205.50/can
Honey Roasted Fancy Cashews 241g P295.50/can
Cousin Willie's
Popcorn Buttery Explosion, Cheddar Cheese
3/99g P76.00/box

Morton
Iodized Salt 737g P38.50/box
Salt & Pepper 184g P73.00/box
Ramirez Sardines
In Tomato Sauce, In Vegetable Oil
425g P45.50/can



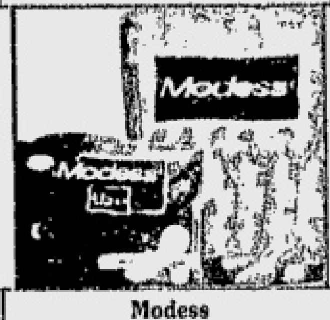
Palmolive
Naturals Soap Whitening Care w/ Pearl Powder
125g P27.30/ea 90g P19.70/ea
70g P10.05/ea



Sensodyne
Freshmint
120g P186.75/tube 40g P111.40/tube
Freshmint Gel, Original, Baking Soda
100g P155.10/tube
Original 25g P51.90/tube

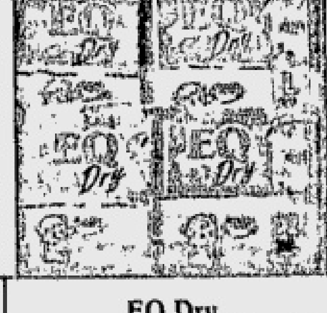
Surf
Powder Gold w/ Active Scrub
80g P6.00/pk 410g P47.10/pk
1kg P91.20/bag 2.5kg P210.95/bag
Bar w/ Active Scrub
410g P16.60/bar 165g P6.10/bar

Huggies
Dry XL 16s P148.70/bag
Dry Comfort XL 34s P331.95/bag
Pull-Ups Pants XXL 8s P123.80/bag
XL 10s P134.50/bag

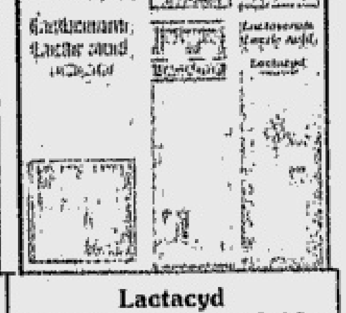


Modess
All Nights Maxi w/ Wings
4s P27.10/pk
Singles Cottony Soft No Wings Odor Control
12s P37.00/pk

Jergens
Skin Care Lotion Original, Ultra Healing, Skin Smoothing, Soothing Aloe, Anti-Bacterial, Multi-Vitamins 600ml P117.80/bot



EQ Dry
Econo Pack Small 40's, Medium 36's, Large 32's, XL 28's P242.00/bag



Lactacyd
Baby Bath (Blue) 250ml P148.00/bot
Feminine Hygiene Classic (Pink), Fresh Radiance 250ml P140.00/bot

GET GOING WITH GREAT SAVINGS

at 4 SM SUPERMALLS

Catch the exciting value deals at **SM City Manila, SM Southmall Las Piñas, SM City Pampanga and SM City Cagayan de Oro** during their simultaneous **3-Day Sale on September 30, October 1 and 2.**

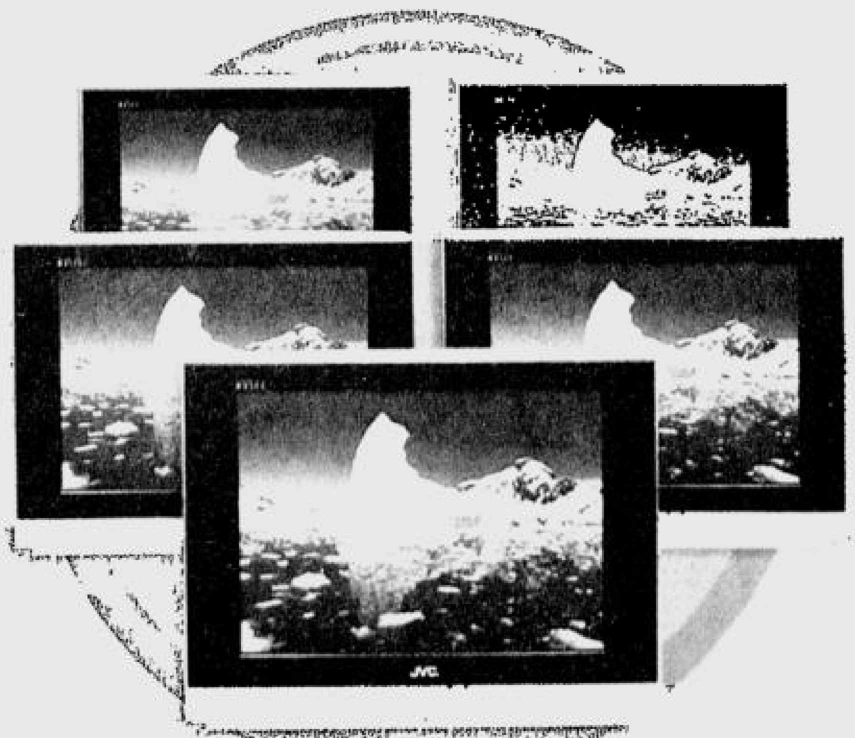
up to 50% off
great selections mallwide

3day sale

sept 30. oct. 1.2

mall hours: 10am - 10pm

get a chance to
WIN one of **5**
JVC®
The Perfect Experience
color TVs 73.66cm (29")
with every P500 purchase
at participating mall
establishments



5 winners per mall

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5183, Series of 2005.

20 cars for 20 malls

A total of 20 brand-new Mitsubishi Outlander will be given away as grand prizes in SM Supermalls' nationwide raffle event on-going until November 15. In addition to the grand prizes, 20 JVC Color TVs will be raffled off as major weekly prizes starting October 15.

Shoppers at any of the 20 SM Supermalls nationwide are invited to join this exciting raffle event. Every P500 purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, or any mall establishment entitles shoppers to one raffle coupon.

SM City MANILA

Bundle of Treats

Besides giving shoppers the chance to win one of five JVC color TVs in the raffle event, SM City Manila also invites its patrons to enjoy the **SM Cinema Movie Bundle** experience which consists of a free 12-oz. iced tea drink, a Gandour XLZ choco pack and regular popcorn that come with the purchase of a premier ticket of the movie you want.

Big on Sports

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS

Among the attractions at SM Southmall is the **SM Arena**, an exciting mix of fun and indoor sport challenges.

Located at the second floor of the mall, SM Arena offers a wide array of sporting goods and computer gaming facilities. The activity section includes a bowling alley, wall climbing and basketball shooting areas.

SM City PAMPANGA

What's new

Here are more reasons why you should always visit SM Pampanga: Newly opened establishments include Dickies USA, Fly Wear 2, Branded (Spoofs) and Triple B Car Sticker!

News for food lovers: Yellow Cab Pizza Co., Milko, Kiss King of Balls, Chimpoy's Champoy and Fruits Unlimited have also opened their branches at SM City Pampanga.

Meanwhile, here are the ones to watch out for! Soon to open branches: Forever Flawless, Asianic and Banco de Oro 2.

Stars on Stage

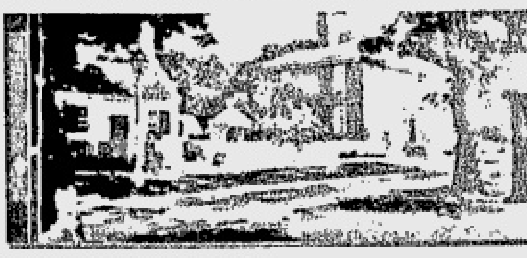
SM City CAGAYAN DE ORO

Watch Manila artists perform live during the 3-day sale. Slated to appear on stage are:

- **Raymond Lauchengco**
  (September 30, 4pm at Cinema 1)
- **The Buzz and Vietnam Rose AJ Dee**
  (October 1, 4pm also at Cinema 1)
- **Plus a surprise guest artist**
  (October 2 same time, same venue)

Get a free ride at any one of the on-going **SM Carnival** fun rides: Bumble Bee, Mini Carousel or Balloon Wheel for every P200 purchase at SM Department Store or Ace Hardware from September 15 to 30. Coupons are valid until October 2.

Super hot buys, great savings, exciting prizes and lots of fun and entertainment await shoppers at the 4 SM Supermalls this coming weekend.



Home Sweet Home

E-mail: sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Top 10 interior projects for your home

UPDATING AND IMPROVING THE INTERIOR OF YOUR HOME doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing plan. You can start with a small project and then work your way up to a larger one. The following interior how-tos are just a few of the best home improvement projects for the average do-it-yourselfers to tackle.

1. Coordinate new bathroom fittings with your current fixtures and add vanity lighting to update your bath. The time and expense involved to update your bathroom fittings is minimal compared to the visual return you will receive.

2. Paint a room for a fresh new look. A new coat of paint will make a world of difference in the look and feel of your home. By carefully preparing your room for painting, you will be able to achieve a professional-looking finish that will make you step back and say, "Wow!"

3. Add a little bit extra to your walls with a faux finish. The faux finish center offers how-to information and tips on many different types of finishes to complement your room's decor.

4. Ceiling fans are both functional and decorative. They are particularly useful in the summer, since they effectively reduce energy usage while creating a cool breeze. They can also be used in the winter to gently pull heated air away from the ceiling where it tends to collect.

5. Easily maintained, ceramic tile may be just the look you want for your bathroom, kitchen or foyer. Installation is not particularly difficult, but it does require preparation and some patience. With the different sizes and tile finishes available, the final look of a new tiled floor or wall will make a dramatic difference.

6. Install adjustable wire shelving in your garage, workshop or closet for increased space and tidiness. Once the adjustable wire shelving is installed, you can easily change the configuration in the future, if needed.

7. Divide a large room, like a basement, with a non-load bearing wall. You'll create two rooms that can be used for different functions.

8. Install mouldings in your home to provide a regal touch. Mouldings hide slight imperfections where corners meet, join materials of varying thickness and gives a room a finished look. Mouldings also help make a transition from different materials such as paint and wallpaper.

9. There are simple and inexpensive steps that you can take to make your home more energy efficient. These solutions often bring big returns. From wrapping hot water pipes to replacing furnace filters, these suggestions will benefit the environment as well as the family piggy bank.

10. If you've been thinking of updating your kitchen cabinets, why not do it this weekend? It's easier (and less expensive) than you might think. With a little elbow grease and creativity, you can give your kitchen cabinets a face lift and create the effect of an entire remodel. *These home improvement tips were taken from ivillage.com as provided by Lowe's.*

ELEMENTS OF A DREAM HOME
31
We'll take it from here... to here
Essentials Store-Wide SALE! Oct 4-30, 2005 20% off everything on the floor

ETHAN ALLEN HOME INTERIORS

Let us help you do it. At Ethan Allen we have been helping customer after customer transform their ideas into reality. With a staff of fully qualified interior designers, we have been beautifying homes all these years. Visit us and we'll show you how we can turn your home into a picture perfect one.

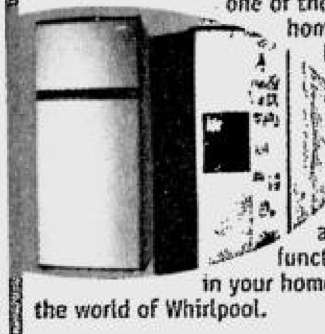
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-804, Series of 2005

FOCUS GLOBAL INC. Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City Tel: 634-8587 www.focusglobalinc.com Email: corporate@focusglobalinc.com Open on Tues.-Sat. 10AM-7PM Sun. 1PM-6PM

Whirlpool

THE WORLD OF WHIRLPOOL

Overall efficiency and elegance has never been executed as effectively as Whirlpool has. Producing appliances that feature top of the line functions and stylish designs, Whirlpool has definitely earned its rank as one of the widely used home appliances both here and in the United States. Whirlpool appliances are not only elegant; they also do functional marvels in your home. Welcome to the world of Whirlpool.

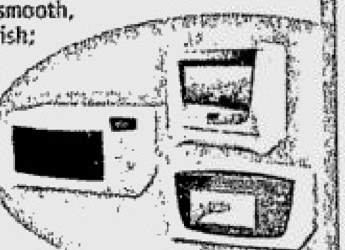


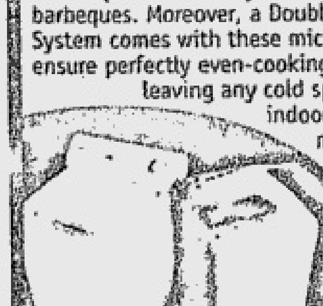
A Whirlpool refrigerator is the definition of cool. Equipped with 360° Surround Cool and Quick Cooling Systems, our refrigerators generate and even-out temperature in no time at all. Appearance wise, our classy design exudes sophistication. We have designed a sleek look for our refrigerators by producing contoured doors, handles and edges with a smooth, high-gloss finish; thus breaking the old and boxy look of traditional appliances.

As for microwave ovens, Whirlpool designed them to be as compact as they are efficient. Whirlpool microwave ovens cook and heat your food in an instant. Aside from their standard functions, Whirlpool Microwave Ovens also have a Quartz Grilling function that is perfect for all your roasts and barbeques. Moreover, a Double Emission System comes with these microwave ovens to ensure perfectly even-cooking without leaving any cold spots. Enjoy indoor grilling and microwave cooking like no other with Whirlpool Microwave Ovens."

Now when it comes to keeping it clean, Whirlpool Washers are revolutions ahead of competition. With speeds reaching up to 750rpm, Whirlpool Washers remove dirt - providing you with the whitest white possible. Our washers have different cleaning actions; each built for various washing and cleaning needs.

Function and flair -- definitely the two elements that make a Whirlpool Home Appliance. Take home a Whirlpool appliance now and sense the difference.





www.whirlpool.com.ph

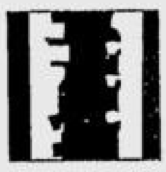
THE ESSENCE OF LUXURY

GC5SHEXN(S)
25 cu.ft. - Stainless Steel
DesignerFit™

Open new doors to luxury with Whirlpool's Designer Fit™ Counter Depth refrigerators. This sleek design fits flush with kitchen cabinets for a streamlined built-in look without sacrificing capacity. It has an electronic temperature control with LED display for easy access and viewing. The innovative controls actually allow you to hide them away or drop down at a push of a button. An added feature is the Icemagic ice control, now you can get 50% more ice production, perfect for parties.

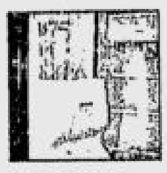
Upgraded features such as the door alarm, dispenser with night light, In-Door-Air® and In-Door-Ice® System with infrared sensor make this refrigerator a remarkable addition to any great kitchen.

Whirlpoool's Designer Fit™ Counter Depth Refrigerators, a clear testament to elegance and sophistication.

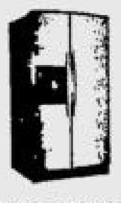


FOAM-IN-PLACE INSULATED DOORS
This refrigerator technology offers consistent cooling, added durability, and improved energy efficiency.

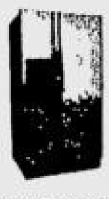
IN-DOOR-AIR®
DOOR COOLING SYSTEM
A special baffle channels cold air from the freezer into the door, making it as cold as the rest of the refrigerator.



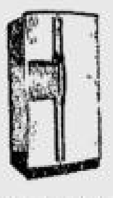
IN-DOOR-ICE®
ICE DISPENSING SYSTEM
The ice bin is located in the freezer door, opening up valuable shelf space. Plus, the handy ice bucket easily removes for filling coolers or for parties.



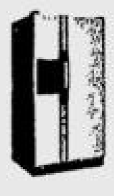
6GD25DCXH(S)
25 cu.ft.
Stainless



GD25HAXN(S)
22 cu.ft.
Stainless



3XEDOSHGKX(S)
20 cu.ft.
Stainless

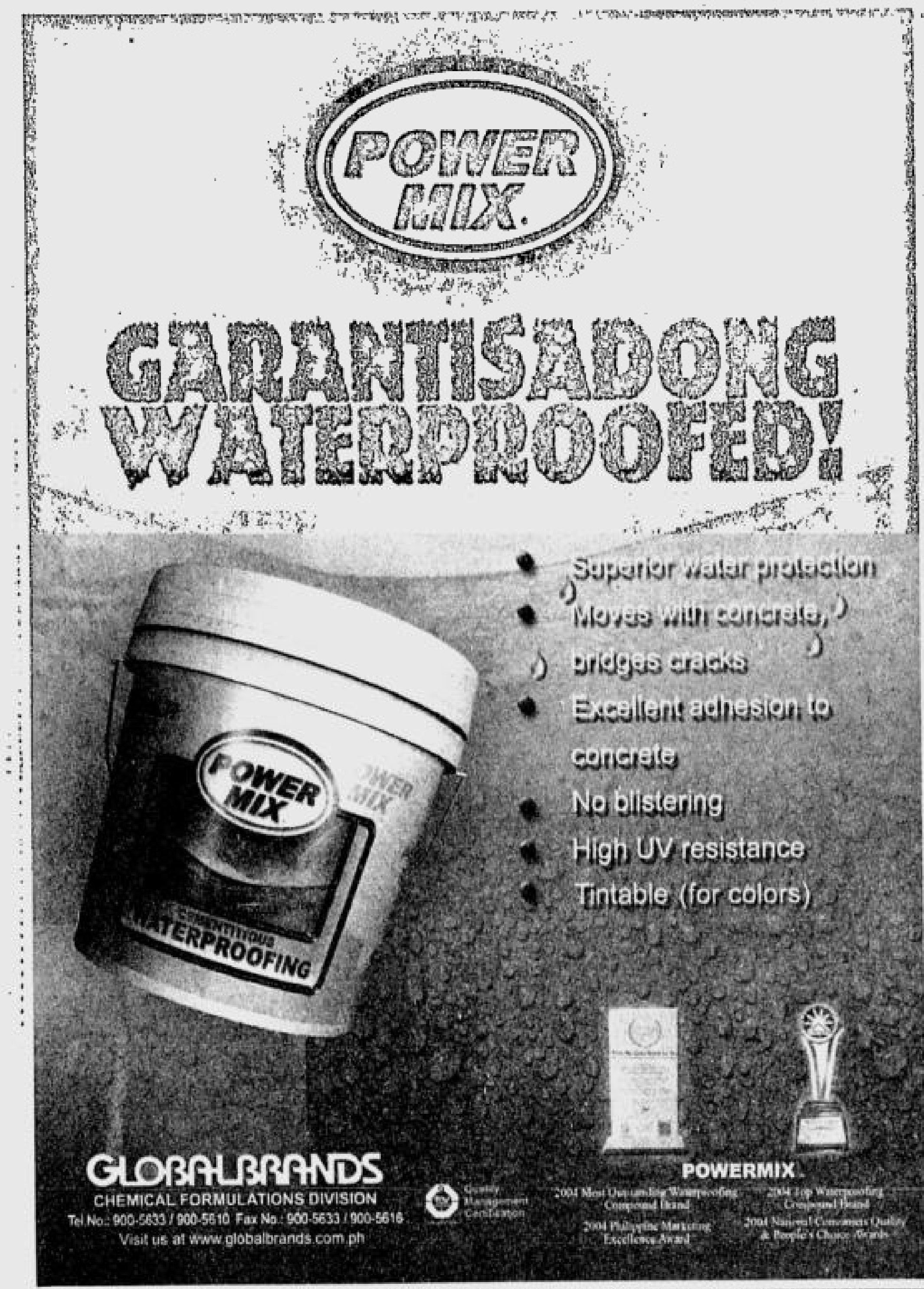


ED2GHEXN(L)
22 cu.ft.
Satina

6EDOGKXK(Q)
20 cu.ft.
White

7-DAY SERVICE
HOTLINE 7327370
TEXT SERVICE 0918-WHIRLPOOL
QUICK RESPONSE MOBILE SERVICE
WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE

Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE



GLOBALBRANDS
CHEMICAL FORMULATIONS DIVISION
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Visit us at www.globalbrands.com.ph

Tips on choosing an effective waterproofing agent

ALL CONCRETE STRUCTURES LEAK, unless it is designed to be watertight. Changing weather conditions cause thermal shocks and interconnects small cracks making it bigger for water to pass through.

To protect your investment or property, waterproofing is essential and necessary. The right choice of what brand/ product to use is critical.

To help you avoid leaks in concrete and damage to your property, here are some tips on what to look for in a quality waterproofing agent for your home or building.

Compatibility to concrete

Your waterproofing agent should have superior adhesion to concrete to avoid film delamination or peeling. The combination of high-grade polymer and Portland cement promotes excellent mechanical and chemical bonding to concrete.

Flexibility

To achieve flexibility, high-grade polymer is the key component. Make sure that your waterproofing compound uses flexible polymer to bridge the inevitable cracking of concrete.

High-water vapor transmission

Your waterproofing compound should be able to prevent water from penetrating the surface and release retained water vapors in concrete to avoid blistering.

UV resistance

To lengthen the service life of waterproofing film and to avoid costly re-waterproofing, you must choose a UV-resistant waterproofing compound made up of high-grade polymer and cement.

Monolithic

Troublesome leaks are avoided when your waterproofing material is monolithic or has no joints and laps when applied.

To give contractors and homeowners peace of mind, Global Brands Company Inc, the makers of the Original Rugby & Super Vulcaseal, combined all these features and benefits in Powermix.

Powermix has superior quality that exceeds most local and matches foreign brands in the market. What's more, Powermix is also more economical than most brands as it provides unmatched coverage cost per gallon.

To get more pointers in constructing your home or building, and to see other quality products from Global Brands, log on to www.globalbrands.com.ph or call 900-5633

POWER MIX
POWER MIX
WATERPROOFING

Powermix has superior quality that exceeds most local and matches foreign brands in the market.

Panasonic
ideas for life

IMPORTANT SERVICE NOTICE

Panasonic Philippines notifies the public that we are not allowed to repair Panasonic 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones as per regulation by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). Such cordless phones are **illegal** in the Philippines and they may interfere with cellular phones, etc. In this regard, we advise the consumers not to buy 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones. All Panasonic cordless phones distributed by Panasonic Philippines comply with the regulations and are type-approved by NTC.

Panasonic Wireless Technology...Smart people choose Panasonic

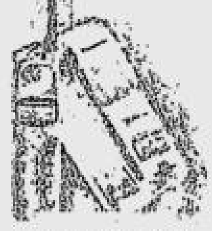
Digitally
Enhanced
Cordless
Telephone

DECT
Digital
Multi-Handset
Clear Sound
Long Range

KX-TCD500
P6,690

KX-TCD400
P3,590

KX-TC1220
P3,890



KX-TC1210
P3,090

Available in blue, black & silver

KX-TC2000
P1,880

KEY FEATURES	KX-TC2000	KX-TC1210	KX-TC1220	KX-TCD400	KX-TCD500
Frequency Range	46 MHz - 49 MHz	46 MHz - 49 MHz	46 MHz - 49 MHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz
Caller-ID Compatible*		●	●		●
Caller-ID Memory*		50 stations	50 stations		50 stations
Ringer Melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	14 melodies	15 melodies
Polyphonic Ring Tones					32 tones
Key Lock				●	●
Navigator Key		●	●	●	
Joystick					●
Large LCD with Blue Backlight					●
Lighted Handset Keypad	●	●	●		●
Phone Directory	11 stations	30 stations	30 stations	20 stations	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)	●	●	●		●
Intercom w/ 2-way paging			●		
Speakerphone			●		●
Dual Keypads			●		
Multi-Handset Capability (Optional)					up to 6 handsets

*Note: Caller ID Subscription required. Prices (SRP based) and features are subject to change without prior notice.

For dealer referrals, please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of PMPC)
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email address: pmpc_systemsales@ph.panasonic.com

Color tips for your home

YOUR HOME IS MUCH MORE than four walls, a roof and a floor. The objects, colors and textures that decorate your home are expressions of taste as unique as the person who lives there!

Designers William Diamond and Anthony Baratta share their considerable expertise on how to rev up your rooms.

1. A painted ceiling will influence a room without interrupting the eye. Paint the ceiling pink to add warmth and surprise, or sky blue for a feeling of the outdoors. For a more dramatic effect, try gold or silver leaf.

2. Buy a colorful quilt, old or new. Stretch it over a frame like a painter's canvas and hang it on a wall for an instant shot of pattern and color.

3. We love to paint floors. Use French blue, dark green, Chinese red or even black. If you're feeling adventurous, stencil a border or an overall pattern in a darker shade or complementary color.

4. Accessorize a neutral room with one strong color. For example, pick one big color—like hot orange—and find throw pillows in a geometric orange print, a stack of fabric-covered orange boxes or orange ceramic bowls and vases.

5. Be creative with colorful paint. In an all-white modern room we might paint just one wall in a strong color. The colored wall will recede and give added dimension to the room.

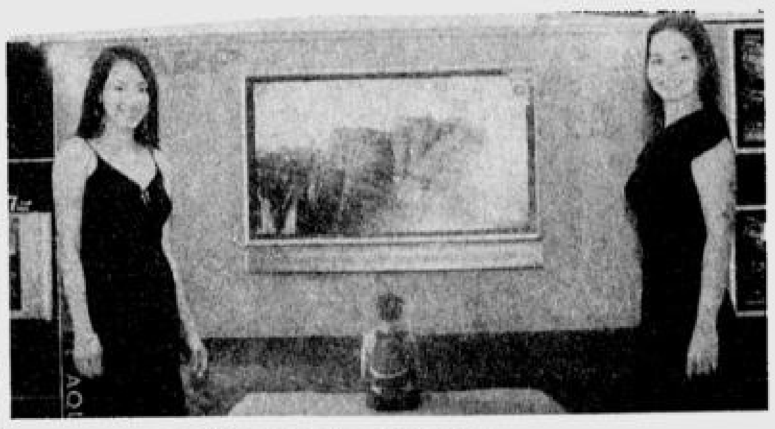
6. Add colored lamp shades, which can be custom-made with almost any fabric or paper in every imaginable color.

7. We love to use antique Swedish, Austrian or German painted furniture to add an elegant touch of color. For a more playful look, we'll paint or pinstripe a piece of thrift-shop furniture.

8. Rugs are one of the easiest ways to introduce color into a drab setting without overwhelming a room. A strong rug will "ground" a room and add depth and drama to a neutral space.

9. Reframe a painting or print with a color mat that matches one of the artwork's dominant colors.

10. Slipcover a sofa and chair in a clean, bold color canvas with a contrasting welt. Slipcovers are a less permanent investment, so you can have fun experimenting. Try bold checks or stripes in crisp clean colors or a favorite large-scale print. *These home improvement tips were taken from ivillage.com.*



SHARP REVEALS NEW PRODUCTS

Sharp Corp, leader in consumer electronics and home appliances, recently launched its new batch of breakthrough products in an exhibit during a conference with dealers and business partners held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Some of the impressive displays in the exhibit included three new Aquos models, the LC26GA5T, and LC-37GA5T. Sharp Aquos TVs are known for their state-of-the-art LCD panels with high-definition resolution, rich color purity, high brightness and contrast, wide viewing angles, and Sharp's exclusive fast response time video circuit for high-speed images. Viewing with Sharp Aquos TV is so clear you can enjoy your favorite shows from any angle and in any lighting condition. Also featured in the exhibit was Sharp's Healsio Water Oven-the most advanced multi-functional kitchen appliance that reduces fat and salt content in foods while it cooks. Product presentations during the unveiling of the innovative products were provided by Peter Villanueva, assistant manager for product marketing, and Ana Marie Flores, market research analyst.

Bath scents add to the overall experience of Oakwood properties

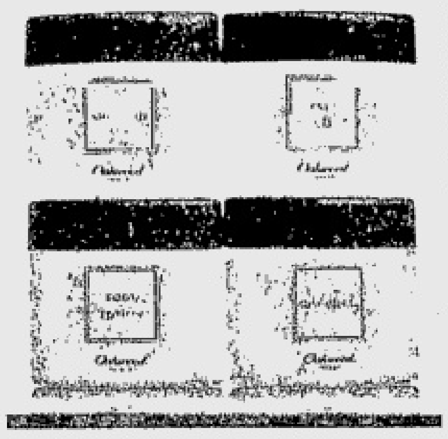
THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN AN Oakwood property in Asia, take time to smell and enjoy the shampoo and the rest of the bath line. Chances are the elegantly packaged bath gel, lotion, shampoo and conditioner with musky, woody notes are made in the Philippines.

When Oakwood first put up the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in 1998, one of its flagship properties in Asia, the hospitality chain discovered local supplier Gemma Suzara, perfumer and directress of The Olfactory, who studied natural fragrances in Argentina. Opting to work with flowers, seeds and spices, she has mastered the ancient craft of perfumery.

"We selected Olfactory because they were able to develop a custom product for Oakwood that was based on quality of ingredients and unique fragrances," says Paul Prescott, vice president of development and technical services for Oakwood Asia Pacific. "Gemma was one of the few professionals we could locate producing custom products for the hospitality industries that also assured us of individuality and the blend we needed to create the feelings we sought to associate with each brand. Olfactory's products can be exported to most countries around the world without adaptation - even Japan - because of the natural ingredients she uses."

A pioneering effort of Oakwood, which had established itself principally in the United States as a provider of corporate housing, the Ayala Center project attempted to blend the services and furnishings offered by luxury hotels with the convenience and roominess of a self-contained residential apartment unit.

Today, Oakwood Premier Ayala Center's consistently high occupancy rates and high guest return rate verify that the concept is very much appreciated by guests who have been given a new option. According to Al Legaspi, resident manager of the Makati establishment, a high guest return rate means that an Oakwood guest is likely to stay in the property each time he visits Makati.



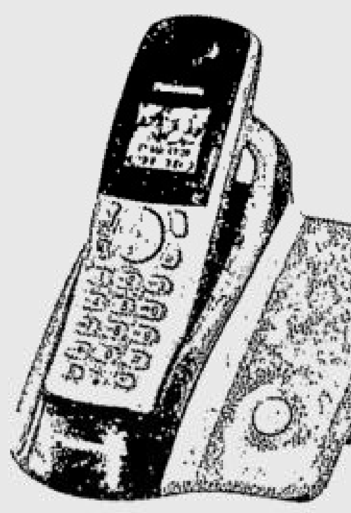
As Oakwood put up more properties in Asia following Makati's success, it was only natural that these new properties would use the Philippine bath line including its glycerine soap. Suzara explains that glycerine soap is mild and makes use of simpler, lighter ingredients compared to opaque, commercial soap. After about three years, Oakwood changed its fragrance to a muskier one in keeping with current trends and to offer guests a change.

She discloses that the special challenges of creating soaps and shampoos for luxury properties is that the fragrance must appeal to both men and women, be distinguished at the same time light enough so that the guest can still use his or her favorite cologne or perfume over the bath scents.

Your 'next-generation' landline phone

THIS BEAUTY WITH MOBILE PHONE-LIKE features is your next generation landline phone.

Be the next talk of the town with this cutting-edge innovation from Panasonic. This cordless phone has a stylish full color display the whole family will surely love. Its icon-driven menu is set in a hue filled background that changes color to indicate that the caller is in the phone book or Caller ID. And with Multi handset Capability, everybody can have their own telephone and personalize display colors and background images to fit their preferences.



Other major features include: customizable caller ID* with five fabulous color IDs and 20 pre-installed ringer sounds; phonebook copy for convenient transferring and keeping names and numbers to another handset; SMS or text messaging* just like the mobile phone; hands-free speaker phone on handset-talk all you want while doing something else; voice enhancer to make the caller's voice clearer and easier to hear; polyphonic ringer melody/tones on handset with 14 pre-set melodies and 6 ring tones; night mode so you can say goodbye to late night calls and hello to a good night's sleep; 200-name and number phonebook for easy recall.

Plus many more futuristic features you will surely love!

Put more life and color to your conversations with Panasonic DECT Phone KX-TCD300.

**Requires subscription to a Caller ID / SMS feature offered by the telephone company.*

AMONG RP'S BEST

World-class award-winning Philippine product Tupuro has attracted the attention of 'balikbayans', locals and foreign visitors alike. The RP-made water purifier is shown during the demo-booth launch with model Micah de Guzman. Recommended for 'micro-biologically tested water', the 15-year 'Philippines' Best' product has been selected for its highly proven and effective disease prevention methodology against kidney stones, gastro, diarrhea, heart disease and cancer. It is exhibited for viewing at leading Philippine malls and supermarkets.

DIANE SAWYER AND GO FLEX!

US TV network ABC's 'Good Morning America' host Diane Sawyer (left) shows how Tupperware's Go Flex! four-cup collapsible container can easily be inserted into racks like a flat disk or plate, as Good Housekeeping editor-in-chief Ellen Levine (right) listens during the recently concluded presentation of Good Housekeeping Good Buys Award in the said show. The award was given to a handful of the most innovative products in America each year by Good Housekeeping Magazine. Tupperware, one of the world's most recognized brands in lifestyle products offering ingenious design, quality construction and lifetime warranty, is the first company to win the award two years in a row. Go Flex! was also cited by Fortune Magazine in its annual Best 25 Products of the Year.

Get a free X-Wave TV with your LG Plasma TV

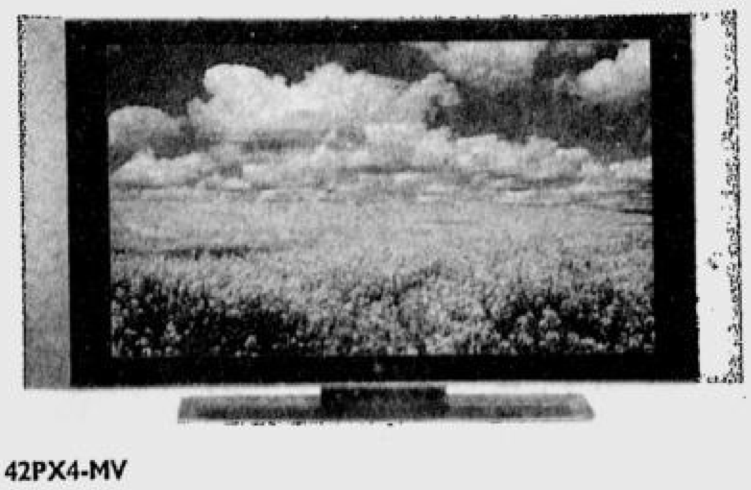
DIGITAL LEADER LG ELECTRONics gives home entertainment aficionados a major treat this October with its Free X-Wave Promo.

For every cash purchase of the LG 42PX4-MV Plasma TV, customers get a free 29-inch RP-29FD61F X-Wave TV, one of the most exciting innovations from LG today. Customers using their credit card meanwhile, can avail themselves of the 0-percent interest program for 12-months.

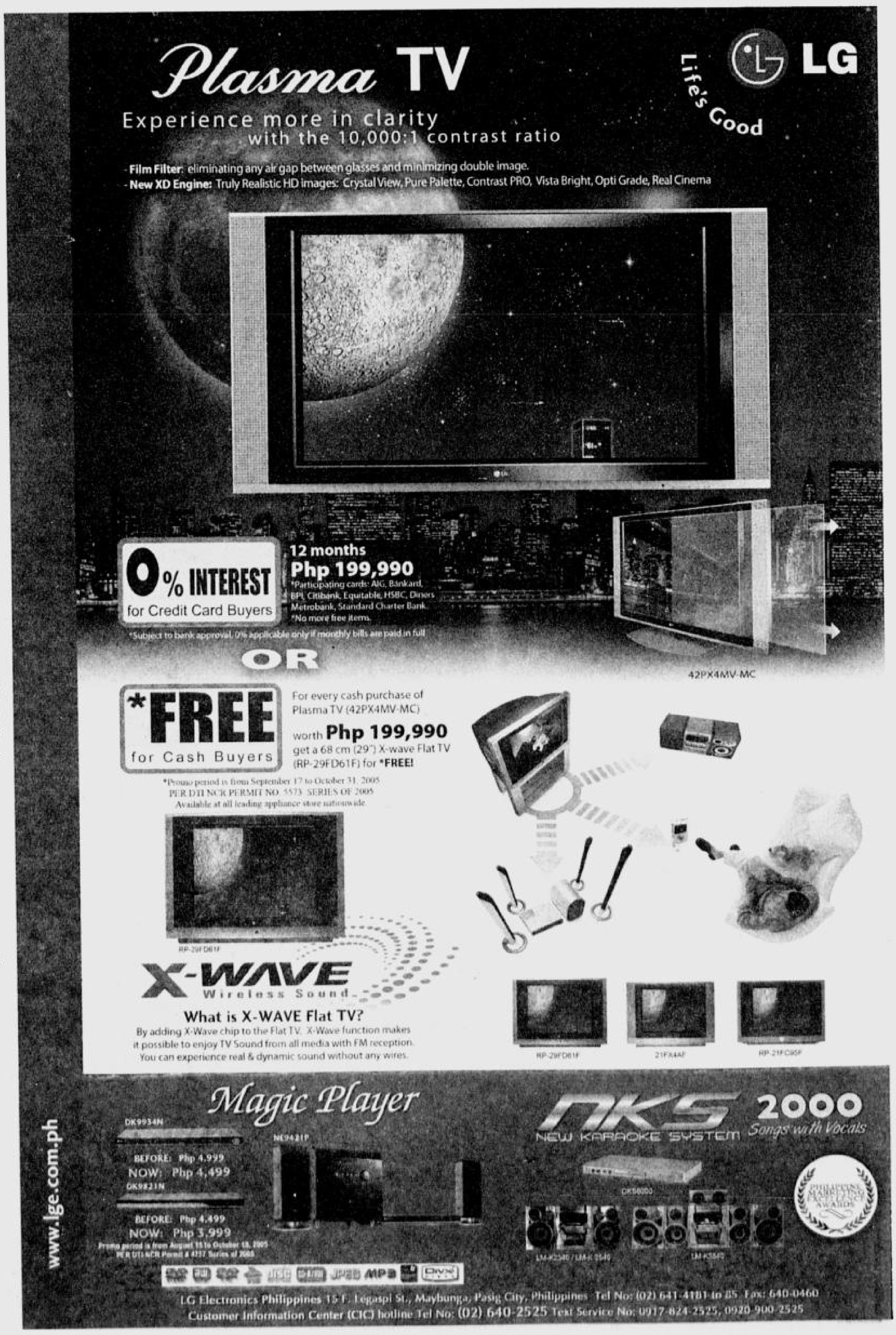
The LG 42PX4MV is the world's first plasma model with a 10,000:1 Contrast Ratio, utilizing a film filter instead of glass to avoid distortions in visuals. All other Plasma units available in the market utilize only glass filters that traditionally have to provide a gap between the filter and the front glass of the unit that can cause double images, while affecting contract ratio and brightness. The new LG Plasma units eliminate this problem with this innovation. LG has also doubled the performance of the XD Engine for the newest line of LG Plasma TVs, resulting in perfect brightness and unmatched picture quality compared with other brands.

The RP-29FD61F, meanwhile, is LG's banner model of it's latest innovation—a unique sound enhancement technology called the "X-WAVE chip" which allows TV viewers to enjoy wireless audio transmission. The beauty of the technology is that it can utilize any existing audio unit with FM reception to deliver on this promise. This means that the transmission of the X-Wave TV audio can now be heard from various sources such as mini components, home theaters, MP3 players, or even cell phones, without any wires. Users can utilize this cutting-edge Flat TV technology to enjoy theater-like sound quality without spending a lot of money by using existing audio equipment. Furthermore, users can also easily overcome the 15W sound output limit of conventional flat TVs by having the X-Wave TV transmit sound into existing audio video systems without any wires through an FM frequency channel.

For every cash purchase of the LG 42PX4-MV Plasma TV, customers get a free 29" RP-29FD61F X-Wave TV, one of the most exciting innovations from LG today. Customers using their credit card meanwhile, can avail themselves of the 0% interest program for 12 months.



42PX4-MV



Plasma TV
LG Life's Good
Experience more in clarity with the 10,000:1 contrast ratio
- Film Filter: eliminating any air gap between glasses and minimizing double image.
- New XD Engine: Truly Realistic HD images: Crystal View, Pure Palette, Contrast PRO, Vista Bright, Opti Grade, Real Cinema

0% INTEREST for Credit Card Buyers
12 months Php 199,990
*Participating cards: AIG, Bankard, BPI, Citibank, Equitable, HSBC, Diners Metrobank, Standard Charter Bank.
*No more free items.
*Subject to bank approval. 0% applicable only if monthly bills are paid in full

42PX4MV-MC

OR

*FREE for Cash Buyers
For every cash purchase of Plasma TV (42PX4MV-MC) worth Php 199,990 get a 68 cm (29") X-wave Flat TV (RP-29FD61F) for *FREE!
*Promo period is from September 17 to October 31, 2005
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 5573 SERIES OF 2005
Available at all leading appliance store nationwide.

RP-29FD61F

X-WAVE Wireless Sound
What is X-WAVE Flat TV?
By adding X-Wave chip to the Flat TV. X-Wave function makes it possible to enjoy TV Sound from all media with FM reception. You can experience real & dynamic sound without any wires.

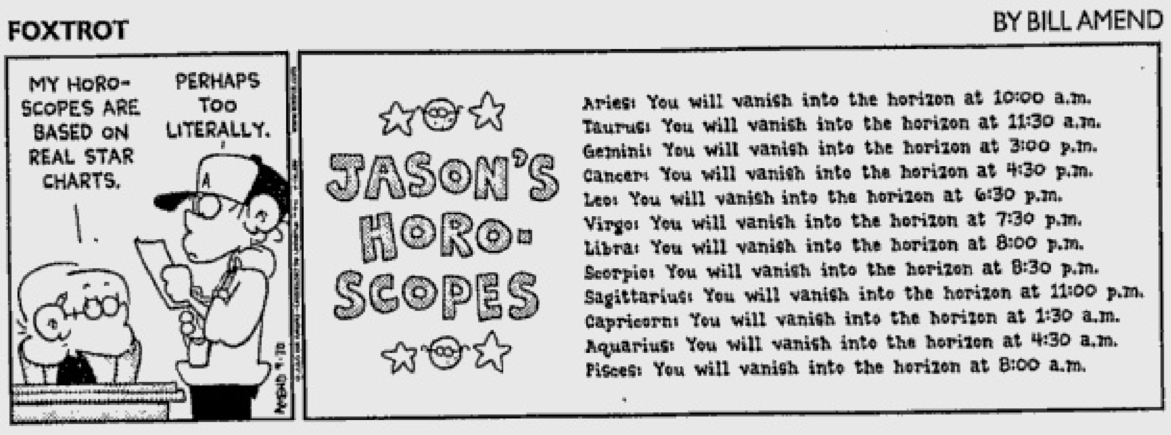
RP-29FD61F 21FX4AF RP-21FC95F

Magic Player
DK9934N
BEFORE: Php 4,999
NOW: Php 4,499
DK9821N
BEFORE: Php 4,499
NOW: Php 3,999
Promo period is from August 15 to October 15, 2005
PER DTI NCR Permit # 4157 Series of 2005
NE9421P

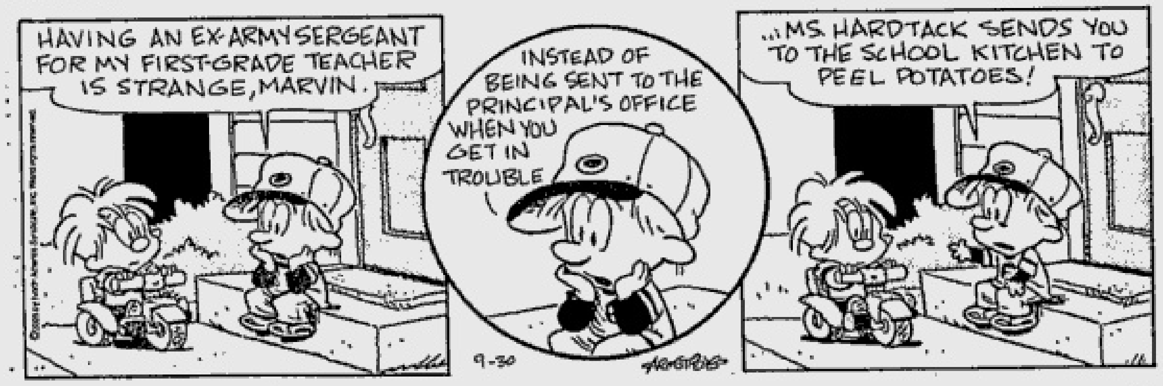
NKS NEW KARAOKE SYSTEM 2000 Songs with Vocals
DK5000
LM-K2540 / LM-K 2540 LM-K5540

www.lge.com.ph
LG Electronics Philippines 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City, Philippines Tel No: (02) 641-4181 to 85 Fax: 640-0460
Customer Information Center (CIC) hotline Tel No: (02) 640-2525 Text Service No: 0917-824-2525, 0920-900-2525

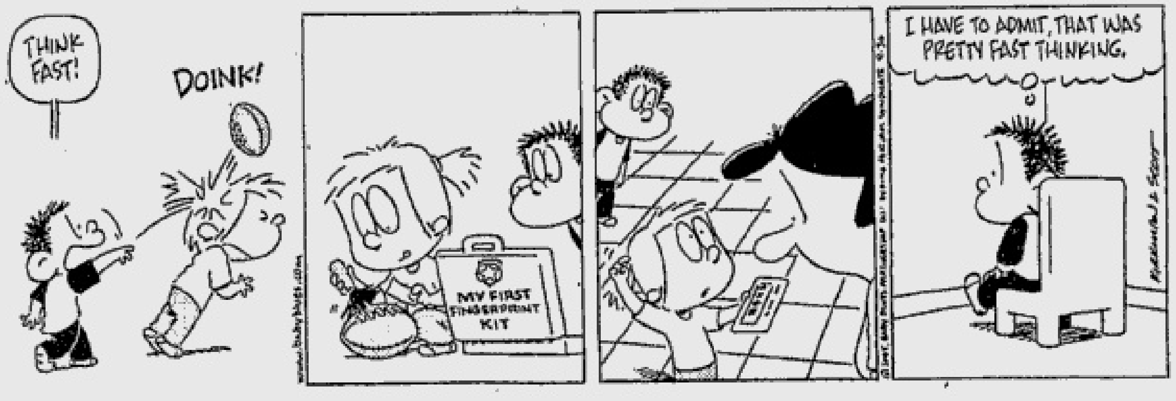
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


MY HORO-SCOPES ARE BASED ON REAL STAR CHARTS.
PERHAPS TOO LITERALLY.
JASON'S HORO-SCOPES
Aries: You will vanish into the horizon at 10:00 a.m.
Taurus: You will vanish into the horizon at 11:30 a.m.
Gemini: You will vanish into the horizon at 3:00 p.m.
Cancer: You will vanish into the horizon at 4:30 p.m.
Leo: You will vanish into the horizon at 6:30 p.m.
Virgo: You will vanish into the horizon at 7:30 p.m.
Libra: You will vanish into the horizon at 8:00 p.m.
Scorpio: You will vanish into the horizon at 8:30 p.m.
Sagittarius: You will vanish into the horizon at 11:00 p.m.
Capricorn: You will vanish into the horizon at 1:30 a.m.
Aquarius: You will vanish into the horizon at 4:30 a.m.
Pisces: You will vanish into the horizon at 8:00 a.m.

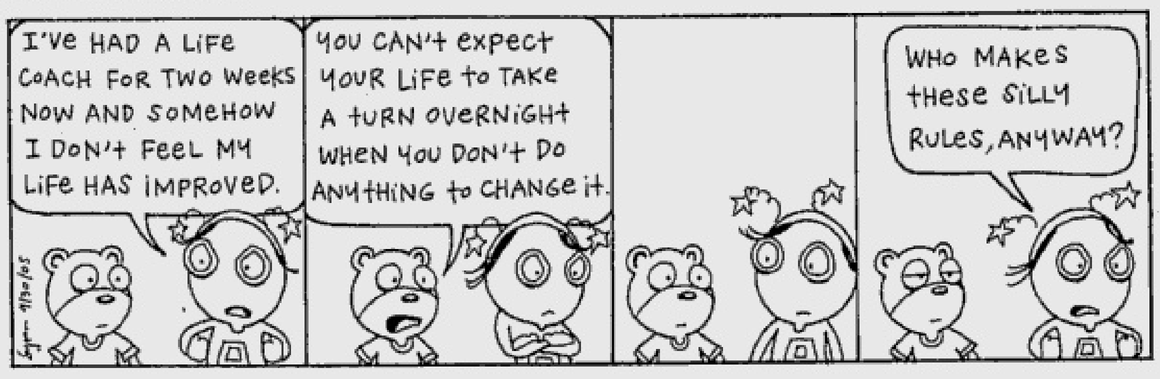
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HAVING AN EX-ARMY SERGEANT FOR MY FIRST-GRADE TEACHER IS STRANGE, MARVIN.
INSTEAD OF BEING SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE WHEN YOU GET IN TROUBLE
...MS. HARDTACK SENDS YOU TO THE SCHOOL KITCHEN TO PEEL POTATOES!
9-30

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THINK FAST!
DOINK!
MY FIRST FINGERPRINT KIT
I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT WAS PRETTY FAST THINKING.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'VE HAD A LIFE COACH FOR TWO WEEKS NOW AND SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL MY LIFE HAS IMPROVED.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT YOUR LIFE TO TAKE A TURN OVERNIGHT WHEN YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE IT.
WHO MAKES THESE SILLY RULES, ANYWAY?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a deep hunger to know more about everything. This curiosity is ultimately what makes you so knowledgeable. It also helps you to understand the world around you. (This is important because your environment strongly affects you.) An exciting year awaits you now. It's full of beginnings, fresh starts and new people. Attack your future with enthusiasm!
Birthdate of: Martina Hingis, tennis player; Jenna Elfman, actress; Dominique Moceanu, gymnast.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Money matters are a bit confusing today. Plans to do something might become undone. Be prepared to come up with Plan B just in case you need it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might have to redo something that you thought was finished. Or you might have to rehash some important discussions with a partner. (Maybe it will work out better this time.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't jump to conclusions today. If you feel uncertain about something, listen to others or wait. People in authority are unpredictable today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A friend or even a group might want to get together with you to redo something or approach something for a second time. This could turn out to be an opportunity, not a delay.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a chance to rethink some major career decisions. It's as if the universe is giving you a second chance. (Hey, we can all use a second chance if we get one!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Partners and close friends are unpredictable today. Be patient. On the upside, you could meet somebody completely unusual and fascinating today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Computer crashes, power outages and technical glitches are likely at work today. All you can do is cope and go with the flow, even if that flow is interrupted!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might meet someone unusual today. Alternatively, someone you know might do something that is pretty wild and crazy. (You can learn something new.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Unpredictable news from management and bosses seems to cause delays at work. This is out of your hands at the moment. Just cope as best you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Take extra care when driving and walking. Something out of the blue could catch you off-guard. Distractions are everywhere.

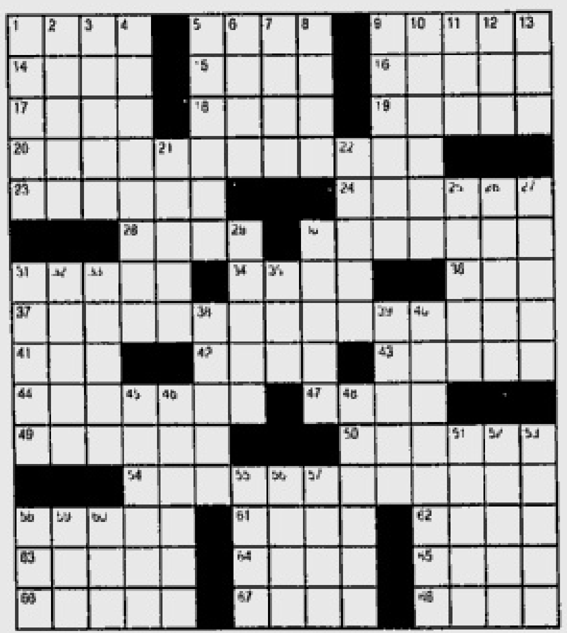
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Delays in renovations and repairs at home might be frustrating. Since you're attempting to make big changes at home, some of this was inevitable, right? (It's no big deal.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today the Moon opposes your sign and unpredictable Uranus. This means anything could happen! It will likely occur between you and a close friend or partner. (Fortunately, it will be minor.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Molten flow
5 Positive factor
9 Worn out
14 Elevator maker
15 Angel's instrument
16 Geared up
17 Young horse
18 Commuted
19 Football game
20 Without warning
23 Gaucho's grasslands
24 Like a streaker
28 Angers
30 Done-up hairdo
31 Banquet
34 Army outfit
36 Up to, briefly
37 Without warning
41 Pi follower
42 Fairytale baddie
43 Hotelier Helmsley
44 Sea cow
47 Sweetie
49 Looks of derision
50 Container for slops
54 Without warning
58 Seed covers
61 Burn soother
62 __ never get off the ground
63 Pig's nose
64 Plant with fronds
65 Rugged cliff
66 Colorful violet
67 All there
68 Historical novel

DOWN
1 Homegrown
2 Coral construction
3 Country residence
4 Knock one's socks off
5 Sentence segment
6 Cambodia's neighbor
7 Pakistani language
8 Raced
9 Cool and calm
10 Potbelly
11 Rotten __ (cad)
12 Beak
13 Test out
21 Strong suit
22 On account of
25 Stone: pref.
26 Relating to birds
27 Greek triangle
29 Abrupt increase
30 Two-footed animal
31 Agricultural sites
32 "__ Frome"
33 Make amends
35 And not
38 Archaic verb for thee
39 Blaze up
40 Exercise session
45 God of the winds
46 Reliable
48 Sweet-smelling gas
51 Modern or marine starter
52 Soviet labor camp
53 Hagar the Horrible's lady
55 Lummoxes
56 Type of collar or circus
57 Of two minds
58 Cleopatra's undoing
59 Genetic material
60 Charged particle



By Diane C. Balwin
Columbia, MD
9/30/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	M	O	■	F	A	L	L	■	S	C	A	M	P
N	E	O	N	■	O	L	E	O	■	M	O	X	I	E
T	I	M	E	F	L	I	E	S	L	I	K	E	A	N
R	A	S	C	A	L	■	S	T	A	T	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	V	O	N	■	I	T	T	■	H	E	E
■	A	R	R	O	W	O	N	T	H	E	W	I	N	G
S	N	O	■	R	U	T	A	■	■	N	O	J	O	Y
H	I	L	T	■	P	E	O	N	S	■	W	A	R	P
A	T	L	A	S	■	■	M	O	U	E	■	C	M	T
F	R	U	I	T	F	L	I	E	S	L	I	K	E	■
T	A	P	■	E	A	U	■	S	H	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	P	I	C	S	■	I	N	U	R	E	S
A	N	O	L	D	R	I	P	E	B	A	N	A	N	A
C	A	R	L	A	■	T	A	T	A	■	N	C	O	S
E	B	B	E	D	■	E	M	E	R	■	O	Y	L	S

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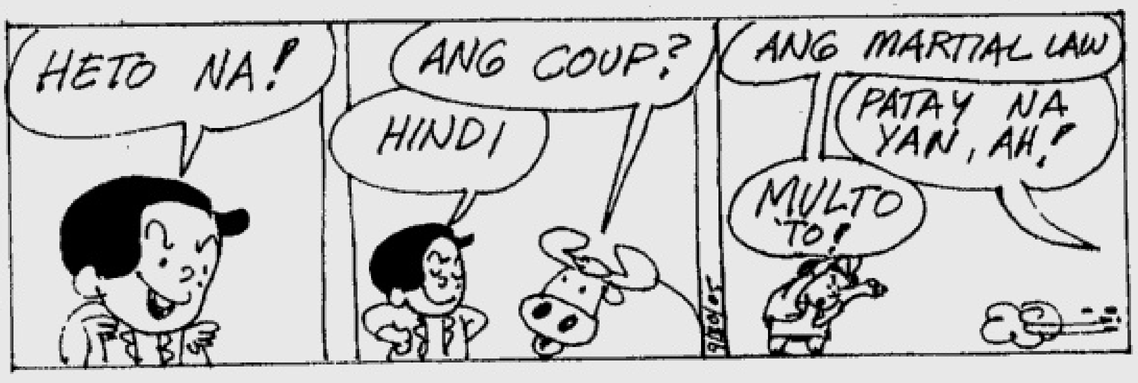
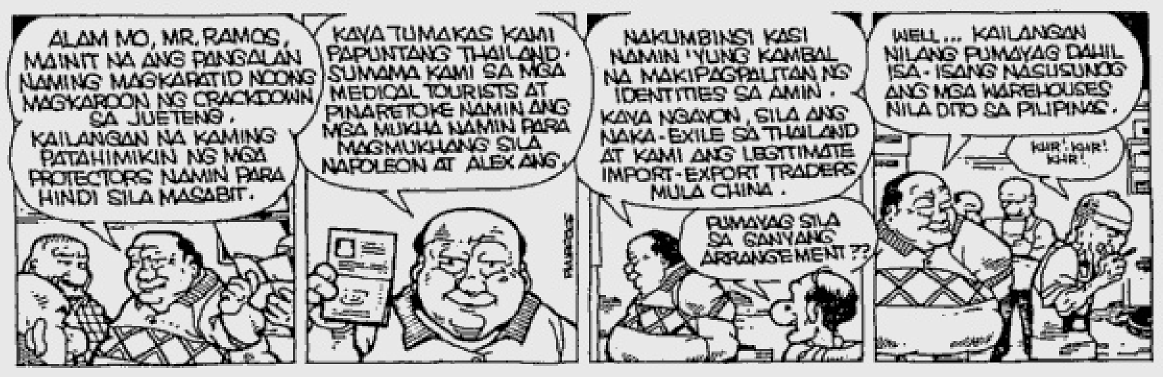
9/30/05

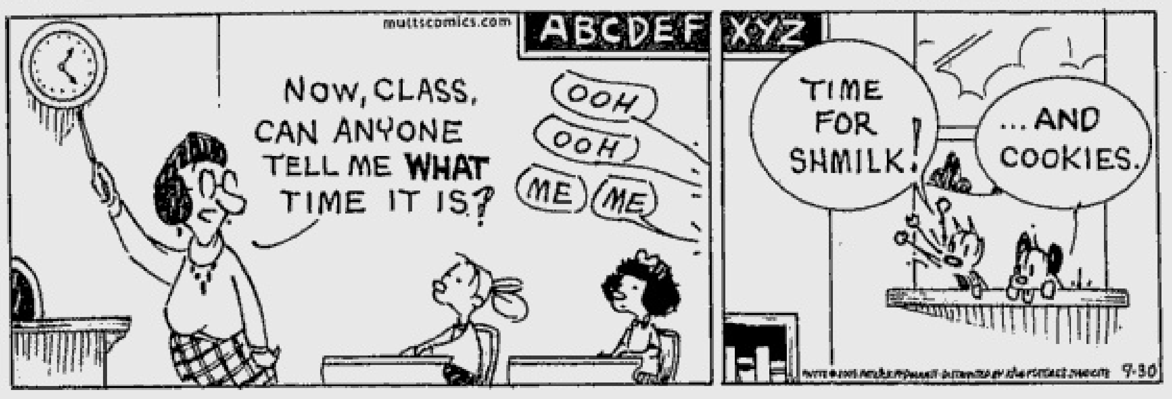
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HETO NA!
ANG COUP?
HINDI
ANG MARTIAL LAW
PATAY NA YAN, AH!
MULTO 'TO!

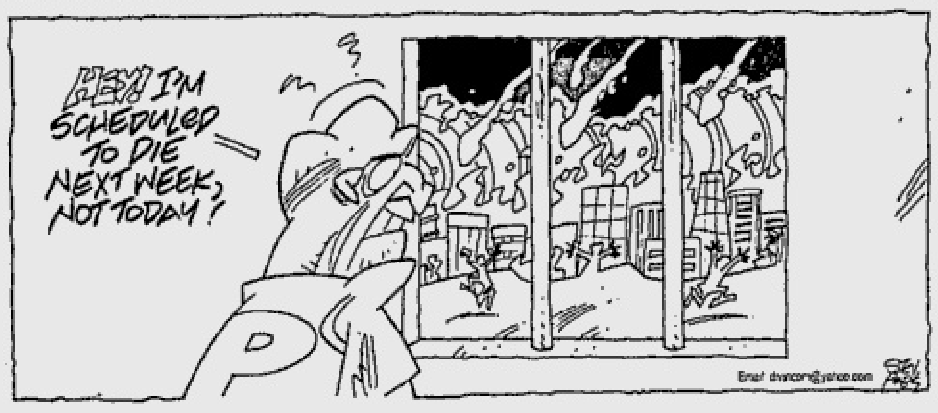
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO, MR. RAMOS, MAINIT NA ANG PANGALAN NAMING MAGKAPATID NOONG MAGKAROON NG CRACKDOWN SA JUETENG.
KAILANGAN NA KAMING PATAHIMIKIN NG MGA PROTECTORS NAMIN PARA HINDI SILA MASABIT.
KAYA TUMAKAS KAMI PAPUNTANG THAILAND. SUMAMA KAMI SA MGA MEDICAL TOURISTS AT PINARETOKE NAMIN ANG MGA MUKHA NAMIN PARA MAGMUKHANG SILA NAPOLEON AT ALEX ANG.
NAKUMBINSI KASI NAMIN 'YUNG KAMBAL NA MAKIPAGPALITAN NG IDENTITIES SA AMIN. KAYA NGAYON, SILA ANG NAKA-EXILE SA THAILAND AT KAMI ANG LEGITIMATE IMPORT-EXPORT TRADERS MULA CHINA.
PUMAYAG SILA SA GANYANG ARRANGEMENT??
WELL... KAILANGAN NILANG PUMAYAG DAHIL ISA-ISANG NASUSUNOG ANG MGA WAREHOUSES NILA DITO SA PILIPINAS.
KHR! KHR! KHR!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

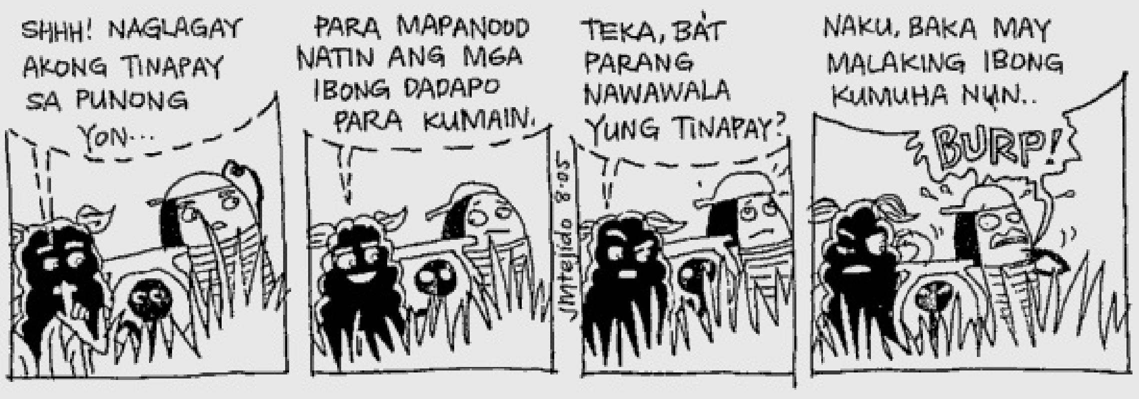

muttscomics.com
ABCDEF XYZ
NOW, CLASS, CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHAT TIME IT IS?
OOH
OOH
ME
ME
TIME FOR SHMILK!
...AND COOKIES.
9-30

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

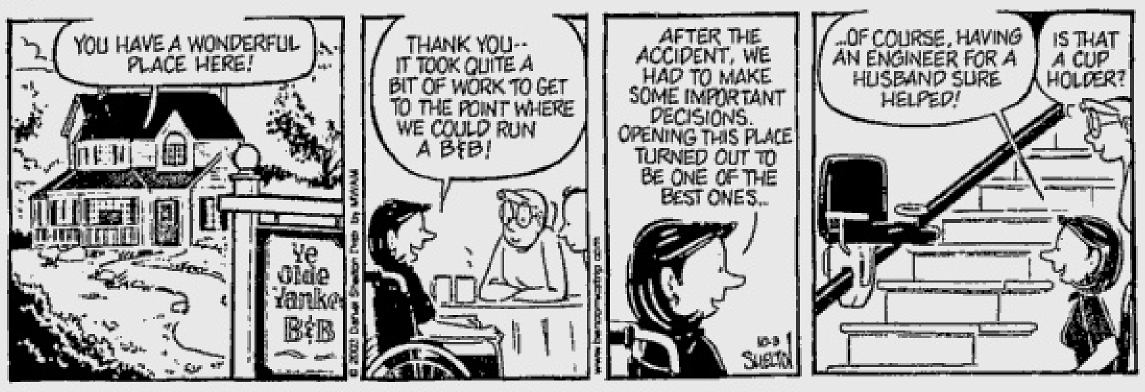

HEY! I'M SCHEDULED TO DIE NEXT WEEK, NOT TODAY!
Email: divinecom@yahoo.com

DEATH-ROW CONVICTS AND THE END OF THE WORLD

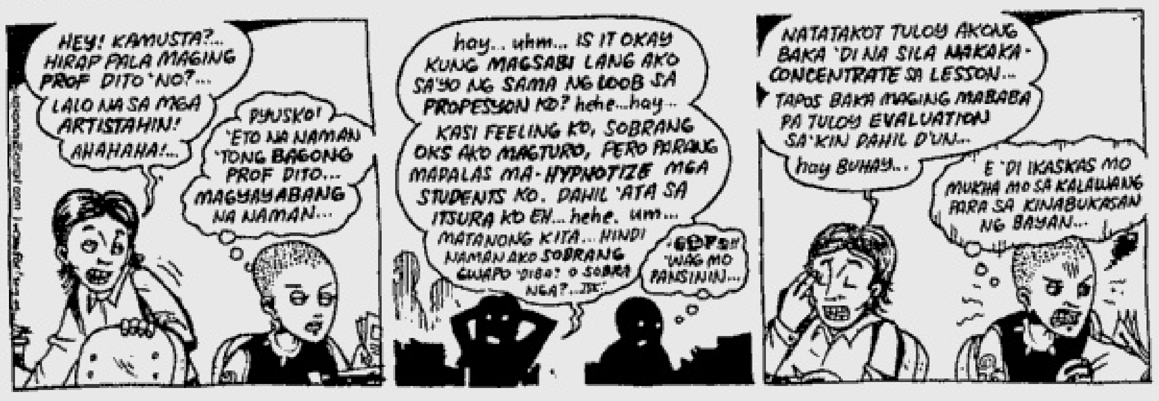
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SHHH! NAGLAGAY AKONG TINAPAY SA PUNONG YON...
PARA MAPANOOD NATIN ANG MGA IBONG DADAPO PARA KUMAIN.
TEKA, BAT PARANG NAWAWALA YUNG TINAPAY?
NAKU, BAKA MAY MALAKING IBONG KUMUHA NUN..
BURP!
JMTejido 8.05

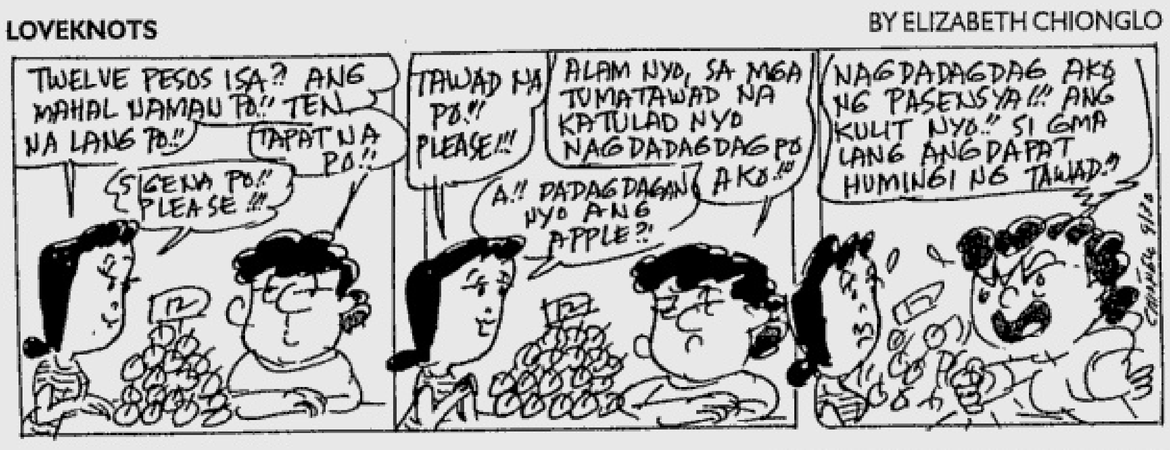
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL PLACE HERE!
Ye Olde Yankee B&B
THANK YOU-- IT TOOK QUITE A BIT OF WORK TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE WE COULD RUN A B&B!
AFTER THE ACCIDENT, WE HAD TO MAKE SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS. OPENING THIS PLACE TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST ONES..
...OF COURSE, HAVING AN ENGINEER FOR A HUSBAND SURE HELPED!
IS THAT A CUP HOLDER?

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HEY! KAMUSTA?... HIRAP PALA MAGING PROF DITO 'NO?... LALO NA SA MGA ARTISTAHIN! AHAHAHA!...
DYUSKO! 'ETO NA NAMAN 'TONG BAGONG PROF DITO... MAGYAYABANG NA NAMAN...
hay.. uhm... IS IT OKAY KUNG MAGSABI LANG AKO SA'YO NG SAMA NG LOOB SA PROPESYON KO? hehe...hay.. KASI FEELING KO, SOBRANG OKS AKO MAGTURO, PERO PARANG MADALAS MA-HYPNOTIZE MGA STUDENTS KO. DAHIL 'ATA SA ITSURA KO EH... hehe. um... MATANONG KITA... HINDI NAMAN AKO SOBRANG GUAPO 'DIBA? O SOBRA NGA?...JK
GOFS!! 'WAG MO PANSININ...
NATATAKOT TULOY AKONG BAKA 'DI NA SILA MAKAKA-CONCENTRATE SA LESSON... TAPOS BAKA MAGING MABABA PA TULOY EVALUATION SA'KIN DAHIL D'UN... hay BUHAY..
E 'DI IKASKAS MO MUKHA MO SA KALAWANG PARA SA KINABUKASAN NG BAYAN...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TWELVE PESOS ISA? ANG MAHAL NAMAN PO!! TEN NA LANG PO!!
TAPAT NA PO!!
SIGE NA PO!! PLEASE!!!
TAWAD NA PO!! PLEASE!!!
ALAM NYO, SA MGA TUMATAWAD NA KATULAD NYO NAGDADAGDAG PO AKO!!!
A!! DADAGDAGAN NYO ANG APPLE?!
NAGDADAGDAG AKO NG PASENSYA!!! ANG KULIT NYO!! SI GMA LANG ANG DAPAT HUMINGI NG TAWAD!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

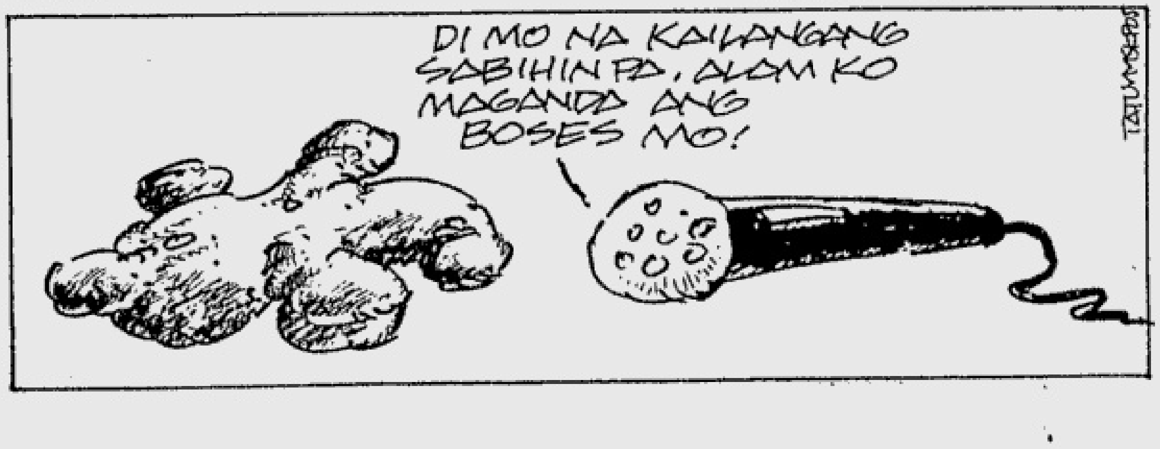
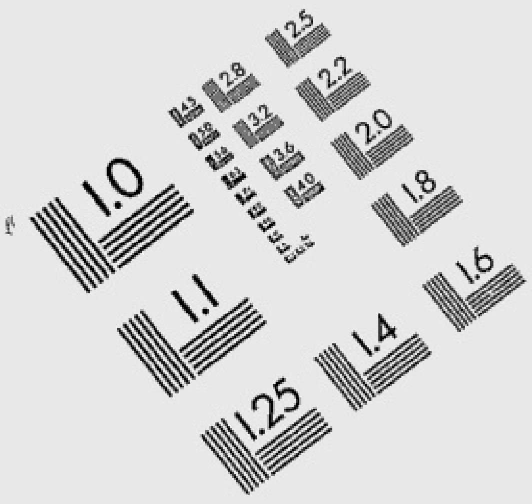
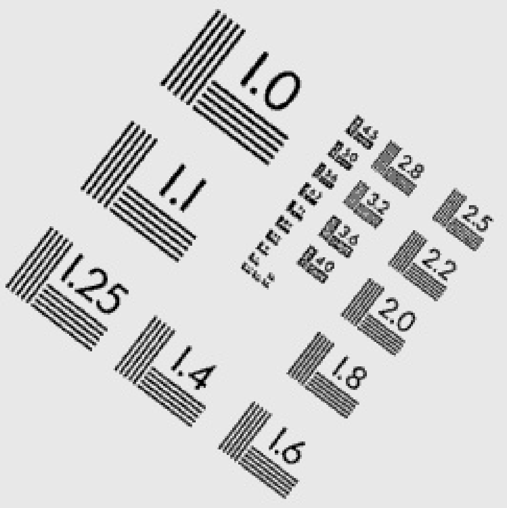
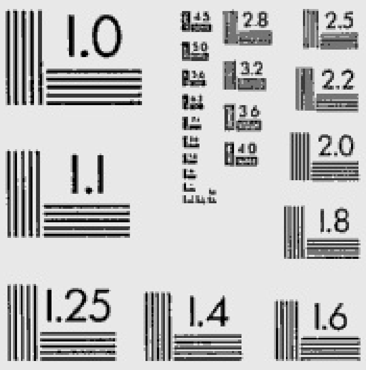
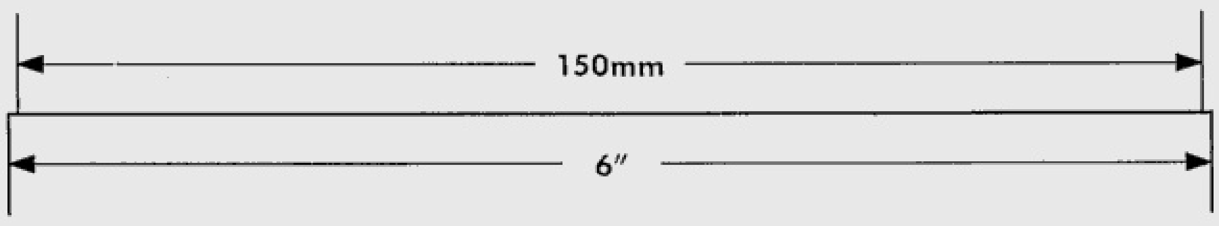

DI MO NA KAILANGANG SABIHIN PA, ALAM KO MAGANDA ANG BOSES MO!
TATUMSPAPU

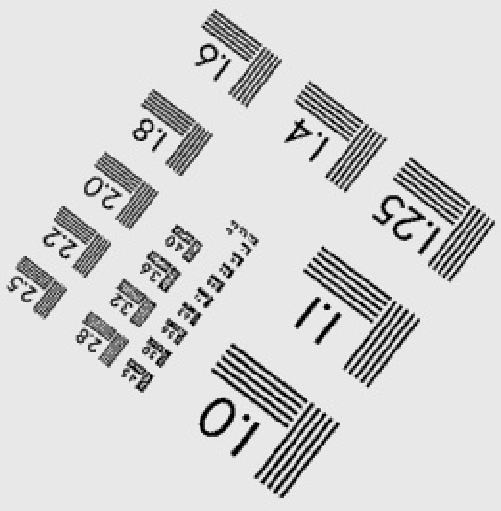
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)

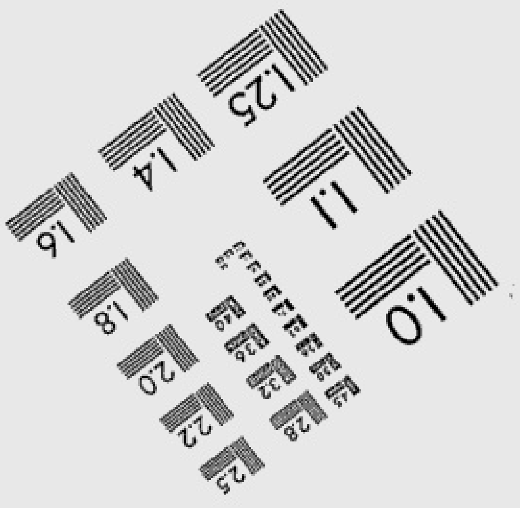





1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0







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